

Anonymous caller 'warns' Israel

BEIRUT (R) — An anonymous telephone caller, said Monday suicide groups would launch a massive attack in the occupied Palestinian territory unless Israel withdrew its troops from South Lebanon within 12 hours. The caller, saying he spoke for the "National and Islamic Resistance movement," told a Western news agency in Beirut: "We warn Israel to lift the siege of Zariyeh, Jarjouch, Arzay, Jbeil Al Halweh, Kfar Kila and other villages and withdraw to rear lines within 12 hours. If our demands are not met, our suicide groups will embark on their biggest earthquake, unprecedented throughout the world, within occupied Palestinian territory." The organisation he said he spoke for is thought to be a loose coalition of Muslim fundamentalists, Amal Shi'ite Muslims and leftists in Lebanon.

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Officer, 5 cadets die in Dead Sea

AMMAN (Petra) — One army officer and five military academy cadets died, one officer was injured and two others were missing after a mishap during a training exercise at the Dead Sea, a spokesman for the Armed Forces General Headquarters said Monday. The spokesman said the incident occurred midnight Sunday when a boat carrying the nine overturned in the Dead Sea because of bad weather conditions. The spokesman named the dead officer as Major Ahmad Haroun and the cadets as: Khaled Ahmad Badreer, Ajwad Badr Al Qadi, Sami Abdul Kareem Quran, and Haidar Rafiz Antoom. Cadets Ali Madad Mizel and Fawaz Barakat Rawashadeh were still missing and search for them was continuing, the spokesman added.

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Charles, Diana in Aqaba

AMMAN (AP) — Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana were vacationing in Aqaba Monday as guests of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, the Royal Palace announced. The royal couple took up a long-standing invitation from the King, an old friend of Queen Elizabeth II and her family, a Buckingham Palace spokesman said in London. The 36-year-old heir to the British throne and his 23-year-old wife will spend at least a week in Jordan, the spokesman said. Last March, the queen and her husband, Prince Philip, made a five-day state visit to Jordan.

Somali minister leaves Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Somali Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Ali Hamid left Amman Monday after a three-day visit during which he delivered a message to His Majesty King Hussein from Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre dealing with Arab affairs and bilateral relations.

Aziz arrives in Paris for talks

PARIS (R) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz arrived here Monday for talks with French leaders expected to focus on the Gulf war, officials said. France has been Iraq's leading Western arms supplier during the conflict with Iran. Mr. Chadi Klibi, secretary-general of the Arab League which has been trying to halt the fighting, was meanwhile flying to Paris from Tunis Monday for similar discussions.

Bomb explodes in Israeli bus

TEL AVIV (R) — A bomb exploded inside an empty Israeli bus Monday, causing no casualties, police said. The vehicle's driver discovered the explosive device under a seat after its passengers had disembarked at the Rehovoth bus station. "I drove the bus to a deserted lot and told a maintenance worker to keep people away," he told armed forces radio. "I called the police but by the time they got there, the bomb had exploded." Police said no one was hurt in the blast but the bus was damaged. The radio reported about 50 Arabs were detained for questioning.

India frees eight top Sikh leaders

NEW DELHI (R) — The Indian government Monday announced the release of top leaders of the Sikh's main political party, the Akali Dal, from nine months' detention. Home (Interior) Minister S.B. Chavan told reporters detention orders on eight Sikh leaders arrested shortly after troops stormed the Sikh Golden Temple last June, had been withdrawn with immediate effect. They include Akali Dal President Harmandir Singh Longowal and Jagdev Singh Talwandi, who heads a rival party faction.

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Ailing Soviet president dies at 73 after long battle with lung disease

Gorbachev succeeds Chernenko

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko died Sunday after a long-standing battle with a lung disease and Mikhail S. Gorbachev, 54, a member of the ruling politburo, was named Monday to replace him.

Mr. Chernenko, 73, who had been ailing for some time, died on Sunday at 7:20 p.m. after barely 13 months in power, the Soviet News Agency TASS announced. His funeral will take place on Wednesday in Moscow's Red Square and his body will first lie in state at the Hall of Columns. Mr. Gorbachev's speedy election to the top post in the Communist Party within 12 hours of Mr. Chernenko's death was regarded by Western diplomats as confirmation that his election was not disputed.

Mr. Chernenko took over the post, regarded as the most powerful in the Soviet Union, in February 1984 on the death of predecessor Yuri Andropov and became president two months later. It took two days to announce a successor to veteran leader Leonid Brezhnev in 1982 and almost four days for Mr. Andropov to be named.

Mr. Gorbachev's election as party leader means that he will automatically become president at the next session of the Supreme Soviet which is scheduled to take place within a few months.

The death announcement was delayed for almost 19 hours. But Moscow quickly went into mourning, with radio broadcasts continuing the somber classical music

that had started in early morning. Black-draped flags were hung by crews working under sunny skies with relatively warm minus-6 degrees C (21 degrees F) temperatures. Mr. Chernenko's portrait was placed on the front of the House of Unions and window displays were hurriedly cleared to make way for black-bordered portraits of the late president. Police squads began sealing off the area around the House of Unions, which will be tightly restricted until after the funeral.

A medical bulletin issued by the government confirmed reports that Mr. Chernenko had long suffered from the lung disease emphysema and said his ailment was complicated by chronic hepatitis. The first indication that Mr. Gorbachev would be named general secretary came when TASS announced that he would head Mr. Chernenko's funeral commission. Mr. Chernenko performed that function for Mr. Andropov in February 1984, and Mr. Andropov earlier arranged the funeral of Mr. Brezhnev.

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Konstantin Chernenko



Mikhail Gorbachev

TASS said Mr. Gorbachev was elected unanimously at an extraordinary meeting of the party Central Committee after being put before the committee by Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko. But the quick move made it clear the decision had been made during Mr. Chernenko's prolonged illness. After accepting the leadership, Mr. Gorbachev spoke of the arms control talks with the United States

opening Tuesday in Geneva, saying he wanted to confirm that there was no change in the Soviet position. "We are not looking for superiority over the United States. We want an end to the arms race, not its continuation... and not the creation of new arms systems whether in space or on earth," he said. In Geneva, it was announced that the Soviet and American delegations to the talks had agreed to

open the negotiations on schedule Tuesday despite Mr. Chernenko's death.

In Moscow, Foreign Minister Gromyko went ahead with talks Monday morning with visiting French External Relations Minister Roland Dumas.

At 54, Mr. Gorbachev is the youngest member of the ruling politburo and his appointment marks the first step in a transition of power from the "old guard" of the Kremlin to a younger generation of leaders.

Mr. Gorbachev, who reportedly lost a bid for power following Mr. Andropov's death, had become more visible under Mr. Chernenko and appeared to have taken over important ideological and foreign policy duties as well as continuing in his economic posts.

His positioning at public events in the politburo lineup over the past year, led most Western diplomats to label him the second man in the politburo. Pravda editor Viktor Afanasyev once called

Obeidat to head official delegation to attend funeral

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat will head an official Jordanian delegation to attend the funeral of Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko on Wednesday, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said Monday. The delegation, which will include Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleb, will leave for Moscow Tuesday, the agency added.

Gorbachev election as swift as his rise: West expects no radical change after Chernenko, page 4. Chernenko's leadership marked by caution, page 8.

(Continued on page 2)

Austria supports Jordan-PLO accord

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Austrian Foreign Minister Leopold Gratz Monday voiced his country's support to the Feb. 11 Jordanian-Palestinian agreement on joint action towards Middle East peace and said Austria will exert efforts with the European Community (EC), the United States and the Soviet Union to find a just solution to the Palestinian problem.

Speaking at a meeting with Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri during which the Middle East question and means to bolster Austrian-Jordanian relations were discussed, Mr. Gratz said Austria was keen to seek an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Masri briefed Mr. Gratz on the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and said the accord aims at contributing towards securing peace in accordance with U.N. resolutions. The accord is also in harmony with the Fez Arab Summit resolutions, which enshrine the principle of "land in exchange for peace" within a framework of a comprehensive settlement, Mr. Masri told Mr. Gratz.

Later on Monday, the Austrian minister met Minister of Occupied

Territories Affairs Shawkat Mahmoud and Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani. During his meeting with Mr. Mahmoud, the Austrian minister was briefed on the current situation in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and the "Israeli occupation authorities' oppressive and arbitrary measures against Arab citizens, pressure on Arab educational institutions and health and economic organizations," the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

Mr. Mahmoud also briefed Mr. Gratz on obstacles facing Arab industrial development in the occupied West Bank and Israel's settlement and expansionist policies, it said.

Mr. Mahmoud pointed out Israel's expropriation of more than 53 per cent of Arab land to set up colonies, and its recent decision to build another nine new settlements on confiscated Arab land, Petra said.

Dr. Anani and Mr. Gratz later discussed means for bolstering trade and economic bilateral cooperation. The Austrian minister voiced his country's interest in contributing to the implementation of Jordan's new 1986-90 five-year development

(Continued on page 2)



Israeli engineers lift on to the back of a truck the remains of an Israeli army vehicle which was hit by a suicide car bomb near the Lebanese-Israeli border on Sunday, killing 12 Israeli soldiers (AP wirephoto)

Iran, Iraq strike deep at each other, accept U.N. call for truce

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iranian and Iraqi jet fighters raided residential neighbourhoods deep in each other's territories Monday in the eighth day of their border feud, according to war communiques and eyewitness reports by various news agencies.

The Iranian air attack killed 13 persons and wounded "scores of others" in the residential neighbourhoods of Kasa and Atash and the one million-populated Saddam City, respectively 12 and 10 kilometres east of Baghdad, witnesses and residents said quoted by the Associated Press said.

An Iranian joint staff communique said Iranian warplanes struck at "predetermined" points in Baghdad after an early morning Iraqi air raid on the Iranian city of Bakhtaran (formerly Ker-manshah) which, by Iranian count, killed at least 70 persons and wounded 500 others in addition to destroying more than 200 houses.

The Iraqis also bombed and damaged unidentified facilities at Port Khomcini (formerly Bandar Shapur) on the northeastern tip of the Gulf, said IRNA, the official Iranian news agency. Later Sunday, Iran said it would accept a United Nations call to stop attacks on civilian Gulf war targets from midnight Monday and Iraq expressed readiness to do likewise.

This follows a week-long wave of retaliatory raids, which gained in intensity and shattered an agreement on hitting civilian areas forged last June by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de

Cuellar. Hours after Iran said it had bombed Baghdad suburbs Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayat told Mr. Perez de Cuellar in a cable his country would respect the call if Iraq did the same.

In Baghdad, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said he had told the U.N. chief he was ready to go immediately to New York for talks with U.N. officials on the question of attacks.

In Baghdad, eyewitnesses quoted by Reuters said three Iranian planes bombed the eastern outskirts of the city, killing at least 10 people. And in Basra, residents said the southern port city underwent its heaviest bombardment in a week of Iranian shelling.

There was no official Iraqi comment on the raid on Baghdad, where warning sirens sounded and anti-aircraft fire was heard. But a military spokesman said an Iranian plane attacked an area about 30 kilometres to the east of the city and fled.

A black-urbaned Iraqi mother, who arrived in Baghdad by taxi along with her four children, said the Iraqis fired two rockets at Saddam City. She attributed the information to the casualties to "everybody" in the densely-populated Saddam City, named after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

She said all the casualties were "civilians, women, men and children, most of whom were killed under the rubble." An eyewitness, who refused to be identified, told the AP that at least two Iranian jet fighters "str-

afed the main road and the inside streets for less than five minutes" in Kasa and Atash.

The low-flying jet fighters, said the witness, drew heavy fire from anti-aircraft guns deployed around Baghdad. The raiding jets "did not bomb or rocket, as far as I have seen," he said.

Air raid sirens wailed in Baghdad for a half hour as the Iraqis were raiding east of the capital, but no planes were seen over the city itself.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) later said a "large naval target" was hit in an Iraqi attack near Kharg Island, the main Iranian oil terminal 185 kilometres (115 miles) southeast of Iraq in the Gulf region.

Baghdad Radio quoted a military spokesman as saying the attack took place at 3:45 p.m. (1245 GMT).

All the Iraqi planes returned safely to their base, he said. In Amman, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Industry and acting Minister of Information Taher Hikmat Monday condemned Iran's shelling of Iraqi cities.

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency, Mr. Hikmat said: "We believe the such inhuman measures are only a reflection of the Iranian weakness in the real battlefield."

He praised Iraq's positive response to international calls for a peaceful settlement to the Gulf conflict, and called on all international powers and organisations to effectively move to put a stop to the war and force Iran to accept peace.

Israelis attack Lebanese villages after suicide blast

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Israeli and Lebanese troops fought a tank and heavy machine-gun battle in South Lebanon Monday as resistance men kept up attacks on Israeli patrols. Lebanese military and security sources said.

Military sources said heavy fighting erupted at dawn when Israeli infantry advanced on Zariyeh and Arzay, two villages north of Israel's Litani River "front lines". Israeli tanks shelled the villages and Lebanese army positions nearby, wounding 12 villagers, the sources said.

Lebanese troops returned fire but officers in the main southern city of Sidon, despatching reinforcements, lost contact with Zariyeh shortly afterwards, the sources said.

In Tel Aviv, a military spokesman said Israeli troops killed 24 "resistance men" and detained 10 Lebanese soldiers.

The Lebanese sources said helicopters landed Israeli troops at dawn. Villagers helped the army fight the Israeli advance, Beirut Radio quoted army sources as saying.

Eyewitnesses later said Israeli troops were sealing the approach roads to the two villages as clouds of black smoke hung over the area.

The Israeli action came less than 24 hours after a suicide car bomber killed 12 Israeli troops and wounded 14, only metres from Israel's border.

Resistance men fighting Israel's occupation kept up attacks Monday with two roadside bombs in an area near Tyre raided frequently and kept under dusk-to-dawn curfew since the start of an Israeli

crackdown on resistance last month.

The bombs exploded as Israeli patrols passed but there were no immediate reports of casualties, security sources said.

Night-long gunbattles raged around Tyre, the scene of daily arrests by armoured patrols of Israelis and militia allies. Villages nearby are centres of anti-Israeli activity.

The sources said Israeli helicopters machine-gunned civilians crossing the Israeli "front line" along roads nearby, wounding two, and tanks shelled Lebanese army-held territory further north near Zariyeh.

At the village of Yatar, south-east of Tyre, Irish members of a U.N. peacekeeping force were caught in crossfire during a clash Sunday night between pro-Israeli militia and Lebanese resistance men, a spokesman for the U.N. force said.

The Irish, who had held their fire during a similar battle there last Wednesday, shot some 50 rounds over the heads of the militiamen before the 15-minute clash ended.

U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) spokesman Timor Goksel said there were no casualties but added UNIFIL would ask the Israeli army to prevent a recurrence.

Sunday's suicide bomb attack was the worst on Israel's occupation force since Nov. 4, 1983, when 29 Israeli servicemen and 35 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners were killed by another suicide truck-bomb. Israeli practices sow fear and resentment, page 2.

The Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in Amman announces with deepest regret and profound grief that Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Praesidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, died after a grave illness at 7:20 p.m. on March 10, 1985.

The Embassy informs that the register of condolences will be opened at the office of the embassy on Tuesday and Wednesday, Mar. 12 and 13, 1985 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sudan cracks down on Muslim Brotherhood

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri has launched a massive crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood Organisation, dismissing 11 of its members from government after accusing it of plotting to overthrow him.

He sacked Brotherhood leader Hassan Turabi from his post as foreign affairs adviser and dismissed three prominent judges, including Al Mikashfi Taha Al Kabbashy, former chairman of the court of appeals.

Mr. Numeiri also fired People's Assembly leader Osman Muhammad Taha and Minister of State at the Attorney General's Office Mohammad Adam Eisa.

The move follows clashes between armed supporters of the Brotherhood and leftist and southern Sudanese students at Khartoum University last month, forcing its closure.

In a radio broadcast Sunday, Mr. Numeiri blamed the clashes on the Brotherhood and accused a for-

ign power — which he identified only as one that "claimed to be an Islamic power" — of arming it.

The Muslim Brotherhood has a strong presence in Sudanese community groups and universities. It came into prominence in the government after Mr. Numeiri introduced Sharia (Islamic Law) in September 1983.

But Mr. Numeiri began edging Brotherhood members out of power last fall, when he denounced them as "brothers of the devil" who were infiltrating the country's sole political organisation, the Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU).

Diplomats say Mr. Numeiri apparently feared the Brotherhood, emboldened by the

proclamation of Sharia, was becoming too strong. Mr. Numeiri Sunday purged Turabi and two other prominent Brotherhood members from the SSU Central Committee.

The crackdown also appeared to be aimed at hard-line judges whose harsh interpretations of Islamic penalties have triggered protests in the West.

Mr. Kabbashy was the judge who confirmed the sentence last month on a 76-year-old Sudanese dissident, Republican Brothers Party leader, Mahmoud Taha, who was hanged for heresy.

Strains between the government and the Brotherhood emerged late last year when Mr. Numeiri accused it of infiltrating political institutions and taking credit for the introduction of Sharia Law.

Brotherhood members have in turn criticised what they feel is a superficial reading of Islamic jurisprudence by Mr. Numeiri and a lack of care in applying it.



REVIEWING REFUGEE SERVICES: Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat (right) Monday receives at his office United Nations Relief and Works Agency Commissioner General Olof Rydbeck (left) for talks on the agency's budget deficit. Mr. Obeidat briefed Mr. Rydbeck on Jordan's efforts to influence friendly countries to increase their contributions to the agency. The prime minister also stressed Jordan's concern that the agency's deficit should not reduce services provided to Palestinian refugees or cuts in local staff. See story on page 3 (Petra photo)

Senior Israeli official attends Africa conference

The following story was submitted to the Israeli military censor, who made a significant deletion.

TEL AVIV (AP) — Foreign Ministry Director-General David Kimche, in Geneva for a conference on fighting famine in Africa, said Monday he would offer Israeli agricultural aid to drought-stricken countries on the continent.

Mr. Kimche also said he hoped to meet with representatives of some African countries with which Israel has no diplomatic relations.

"I have come with a very simple proposal of agricultural assistance. We have experience with farming in an arid climate, so we definitely have something to sell," Mr. Kimche said in an Israeli Radio interview. "I definitely hope I'll have meetings with some of the representatives here."

Most African countries affected by the drought have no diplomatic relations with Israel. Some of them, including Ethiopia, broke ties during the 1973 Mideast war.

But Israel maintains quiet business links and development projects in countries that have refused to resume diplomatic relations, such as Nigeria.

Asked about prospects of re-establishing relations with some countries at the conference, Mr. Kimche told the radio: "There is always progress being made but we must have patience, and we do."

He said he also expected to meet U.S. Vice-President George Bush, who just completed a week's tour of hunger-ridden areas including Sudan.

Romanian vice-president arrives in Damascus

DAMASCUS (R) — Romanian Vice-President Manea Manescu arrived in Damascus Monday for talks with Syrian officials, the Syrian News Agency SANA reported.

He was greeted at Damascus Airport by Prime Minister Abdul Rauf Al Kasm and Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Salim Yassin.

SANA made no mention of the subjects to be discussed, but it was believed the talks would focus on the situation in the Middle East and economic relations between the two countries.

The Romanian delegation includes senior officials of the ministries of foreign affairs and foreign trade.

Israeli harsh practices in South Lebanon sow fear, resentment

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — Israeli's harsh anti-guerrilla tactics have sown fear and resentment in this once bustling South Lebanese port city and its hinterland of some 50 Shi'ite Muslim villages.

The U.N. Security Council was scheduled to vote Monday on a Lebanese resolution condemning Israeli practices in this area of South Lebanon still occupied by Israeli troops.

Well before the Israeli-imposed dusk curfew, people desert the dusty streets for the safety of their homes.

Curfew breakers may be shot on sight. A taxi driver urgently accosts passers-by as it gets late, offering to pay anyone willing to ride home with him, because Israel has banned cars without at least one passenger.

The Israeli army imposed the ban for fear of suicide car bombs, such as Sunday's attack on a convoy at the border which killed 12 Israeli soldiers.

Hassan Skelky, a citrus worker who broke the rules, was found 150 metres from an Israeli checkpoint near Tyre last week with a bullet wound in his head and the skin flayed off his face and scalp with a knife.

Israel says Mr. Skelky, a Shi'ite was shot for failing to stop at the checkpoint, but denies that soldiers deliberately mutilated his body.

Mr. Skelky's disfigurement heightened local fears, already intense since Israel intensified its punitive raids on the Shi'ite majority south of the Litani River three weeks ago.

At night gunfire and explosions puncture the silence.

Sleepless citizens watch the evision or the show outside, red tracer bullets sailing over the ora-

nge groves and bouncing off farm houses as guerrillas attack Israeli strongpoints.

"We are afraid to go into the streets," said a 40-year-old Tyre contractor. "The Israelis are crazy. They shoot for nothing in all directions."

Ali Shaalan said his son Hussein, 17, was shot dead outside his home last month when soldiers at a nearby Israeli interrogation center raked the area with gunfire.

When Israeli armoured vehicles roar through Tyre, often filled with bound and gagged prisoners, grim faced soldiers aim machine guns left and right to force civilians cars to pull off the road. Pedestrians shrink into doorways.

Israel ordered workshops in the city's industrial zone to close when the clampdown on Lebanese guerrillas began.

Israeli intelligence agents and armed Lebanese collaborators seize Shi'ite men and teenage boys from their homes or pull them in at random off the streets.

After last Monday's bomb explosion in the Shi'ite village of Maarakah, Israeli troops rounded up 28 people at random, most of them queuing to give blood at a Tyre hospital.

Architect Ali Sharafeddin told Reuters that the Israelis beat him with rifle butts before locking the group up overnight in a stinking steel freight container.

Western reporters concealed near the courtyard of the Israeli interrogation centre last week saw soldiers hooding detainees then forcing them to run blindly in close file.

"We are peaceful people," Ali Qassem, 64, told Reuters in the frequently raided Shi'ite village of Bedias. "Let the Israelis hit the guerrillas if they want to, but why can't they leave us alone?"

Austria supports accord

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Anani briefed Mr. Gratz on Jordan's current economic situation and ongoing and planned development projects.

He also briefed the Austrian minister on phosphates being mined at Shideh in southern Jordan and chemical industries which are based on phosphates and potash. Jordan is willing to cooperate with Austria in setting up joint projects, especially in food industries, and others that based on agricultural production on both the East and West Banks, Dr. Anani told Mr. Gratz.

Both ministers expressed satisfaction at the level of bilateral cooperation in trade and economic affairs, Petra said.

Mr. Gratz, who arrived in Amman Sunday evening, told reporters on arrival that he would discuss ways for strengthening Jordanian-Austrian relations.

In his arrival statement Mr. Gratz also said that the Jordan-PLO accord was "a great contribution towards breaking the deadlock in the efforts for finding a just peace in the Middle East."

He said he was not carrying a new peace initiative or proposals on peace.

The Austrian minister reiterated his country's stand vis-a-vis the Middle East situation at a dinner banquet given in his honour by Mr. Masri Sunday night. He said Austria condemns the any country's occupation of any other countries' land and demands a total Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories occupied since 1967. Austria, he said, recognises the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and regards the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people which should participate in all efforts for establishing peace and ending the Palestine problem.

Austria has previously caucied on

Israel to reconsider its policies and to stop building settlements in Arab lands and end its occupation of southern Lebanon, Mr. Gratz said.

Austria, he said, realises that proposals made by His Majesty King Hussein to the Palestine National Council in Amman are "conducive to peace and we believe that the Jordanian-Palestinian accord of Feb. 11 will pave the way for that peace."

In a speech, welcoming Mr. Gratz to Jordan, Mr. Masri said Jordan had supported all efforts to establish security and peace in the region, and always demanded the implementation of the U.N. resolutions on this issue, and still consider U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 as basis for a settlement.

"Jordan seeks to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, safeguard the rights of the Palestinians in their homeland and guarantee the right of all states in the region to live in peace within secured and recognised boundaries," Mr. Masri said.

Later on Monday, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Zaid Ibn Shaker received Mr. Gratz and discussed issues of mutual concern.

The Austrian minister and an official delegation accompanying him later paid a visit to the Ancient Roman city of Jerash.

Later Monday, the Austrian-Jordanian Friendship Society held a reception in honour of Mr. Gratz.

The party was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Taher Al Masri, Minister of Youth Hani Khasawneh, head of the parliament's foreign affairs committee Rizq Batayneh, the Austrian ambassador, members of the diplomatic corps in Amman and society members.

Gorbachev succeeds Chernenko

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Gorbachev "the second secretary."

Mr. Gorbachev visited Britain last December in a highly publicised trip that brought him more fully into the international spotlight and presented a new image to the West — that of a younger, more polished Soviet leader.

In becoming general secretary, Mr. Gorbachev vaults over the heads of more senior men on the politburo, including Premier Nikolai A. Tikhonov, Mr. Gromyko and Moscow party chief Viktor V. Grishin.

It also appeared to be a triumph in the reported rivalry between Mr. Gorbachev and politburo member Grigori V. Romanov, 62. Some Western diplomats say the two men vied to succeed Mr. Andropov and that Mr. Chernenko was a possible compromise enforced by the older ranks on the politburo.

A U.S. official in Geneva said Vice-President George Bush would head the U.S. delegation to Wednesday's funeral. Donald Gregg, Mr. Bush's national security adviser, said Mr. Bush would be accompanied by Secretary of State George Shultz and the U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union, Arthur Hartman.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will attend the funeral, her office said Monday.

Other world leaders who have confirmed they will attend Mr. Chernenko's funeral in Moscow on Wednesday included West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Finnish President Mauno Koivisto, and Pakistan's General Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, in addition to Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

By Jonathan Wright
Reuter

MUSCAT — The United States military has increased substantially its ability to react to an emergency in the lower Gulf by spending \$25 million on improving four air bases in Oman, U.S. officials here say.

The construction programme, which began in 1981 and is now drawing to a close, has provided Oman's air force with better airfields, new hardened shelters for its aircraft and vast storage space for fuel, munitions and other supplies.

The bases are at Seeb International Airport, near Muscat, at Thumrait in the southern province of Dhofar, at Khasab in the strategic Musandam Peninsula and on the island of Masira, off the eastern coast of this South Arabian country.

Under a U.S.-Omani pact signed in 1980, U.S. forces can use these facilities at the invitation of Oman's pro-Western government. The concept of joint use

dominated the designs. The agreement came at a time of exceptional tension in the region, with the 1979 Iranian Revolution and the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in December the same year very much in the minds of U.S. strategists.

Khasab, the first base improved under the construction programme, is 90 kilometres from Iranian territory across the Strait of Hormuz, through which most Gulf oil is shipped.

Official material on terms of the accord is littered with security deletions. But diplomats in Muscat say that after several redefinitions, Washington has accepted that it must seek Omani permission each time it uses the bases.

U.S. P-3 maritime surveillance planes can often be seen in the military section of Seeb Airport. Military sources in Muscat said last year two such planes made sweeps over the strait.

Tension in the region has eased since the programme began and the U.S. Congress recently cut appropriations for the project to

\$256 million from \$301 million because it felt the cash could be better spent elsewhere.

Contracts worth \$254 million have been awarded so far. The U.S. military, however, says the exercise has been worthwhile and it would like to spend the full \$301 million if Congress can eventually be persuaded to pay.

Colonel Pat Stevens, the U.S. army engineer managing the construction, told Reuters that strategic imperatives behind the programme had not changed. "If you want to project force in any part of the world, you need to be able to move through swiftly. We're a lot better off here than we were," he said.

The U.S. army corps of engineers did design work for the improvements, consulting at every stage with the U.S. Air Force, the Omani Air Force and the U.S. Central Command — the remains of the Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) set up in the early 1980s for emergencies in areas remote from U.S. territory. The RDF held joint exercises

with the Omani Armed Forces in the early 1980s, but stopped in 1983, partly because the Omanis disliked the international publicity the manoeuvres attracted, diplomats said.

Warehouses and munitions dumps at the four airfields, built as near as possible to NATO standards, would be ideal sites for stationing Central Command equipment.

But Col. Stevens said he knew of no plans for this. "We just make sure they're built. How they are used is a question for the two governments," he said.

Most of the money, \$130 million, went to Masirah Island, which already had a large base originally built by the British as a staging post on the route to India.

Here, U.S.-financed contractors have built new taxiways, six hardened shelters, a pad for loading and unloading weapons from planes and improved services such as water and electricity.

The base now has a power station and a desalination plant capable of producing 140,000 gallons

of fresh water a day, Col. Stevens said.

As at Seeb and Thumrait, each five million litre (1.1 million gallon) fuel storage tank is built of steel, half buried in the ground, and surrounded and covered with reinforced concrete.

Col. Stevens said the emphasis on Masirah was "based on the conception of where improvements were needed," rather than on any special military value. "Anywhere in Oman is important strategically."

Throughout the construction programme, Oman has tried to keep U.S. military visibility to a minimum. The strength of the Corps of Engineers contingent never rose above 45, including civilians, and all the contracts went to civilian companies.

The corps office now has a staff of 27 and is shrinking fast as the operation winds down. It plans to close completely by the end of next year after the last of the contracted work has been handed over to the Omanis.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL
17:00 Koran
17:10 Cartoons
17:30 Children programmes
18:10 Tasmia Centre
19:00 Local Programme
19:25 Programme Review
19:35 News Programme
19:50 News in Arabic
20:00 News in Arabic
20:35 Arabic Series
21:25 Programmes Review
21:30 News in English
23:00 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL
17:30 German Programme for Children
18:00 Bilets Doux
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Star of the Family
21:00 Towards 2000
21:10 Concerted Energy
22:00 News in English
22:15 Hardcastle and McCormick

RADIO JORDAN
355 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
and partly on 95.60 KHz. SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 News Desk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show Cont.
09:30 Top Twenty
10:00 Newsdesk
10:30 Date with a Star
11:00 Evening Show
11:30 News Summary
12:00 Pop Session Cont.
12:30 News Summary
13:00 Pop Session Cont.
13:30 News Bulletin
14:10 Instruments
14:15 Country Music
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Science Report
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:30 Top Twenty
19:00 Newsdesk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:30 Pop Session Cont.
22:00 News Summary
22:30 Evening Show Cont.
23:00 News Summary
23:30 Evening Show Cont.
24:00 News Headlines
14:00 Close down

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 The Classical Guitar 06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:09 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30 New Ideas Today 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Rock Salad 09:00 World News 09:09 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 Seven Wonders of the Modern World 09:45 Network U.K. 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 Size of Old Age 10:30 The Elements of Music 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 What's New 12:00 News Summary followed by Discovery 12:30 Crevasse Jump 13:00 World News 13:09 News about Britain 13:30 News in Hebrew 13:35 Scotland this Week 13:50 Sports International 14:00 Radio Newsdesk 14:15 Foreign Correspondents 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Network UK 15:45 Recording of the Week 16:00 Outlook 16:45 In Spite of Ourselves 17:00 Radio Newsdesk 17:15 A Jolly Good Show 17:50 Racing at Cheltenham 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Omnibus 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:09 Meridian 19:40 Scotland this Week 20:30 Nature Notebook 20:40 The Farming World 21:00 Outlook: News Summary 21:30 Stock Market Report 21:45 The 11th Trade 22:00 World News 22:09 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 Foreign Correspondent 23:00 News Summary: Letter from London 23:10 Book Choice 23:15 Concert Hall 24:00 World News: The World Today 00:25 Scotland this Week 00:30 Financial News

VOICE OF AMERICA
MW 1260, SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 13210 KHz

06:00 VOA Morning News: Informal Presentation of Popular Music with Feature Reports, Interviews, Answers to Listeners' Questions, Science Digest, Sports News at 30 minutes past the hour. 17:00 News 17:10 Newsdesk 17:30 Music USA 18:00 News 18:10 Focus 18:30 Special English News and Features 19:00 News 19:10 Newsdesk 19:30 Magazine Show 20:00 News 20:10 Focus 20:30 Special English News and Features 21:00 Newsdesk 21:30 Music USA 22:00 News and Editorial 22:15 Music USA Jazz 23:00 VOA World Report

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS
* Chinese book exhibition at University of Jordan Library.
* An exhibition of local engineering industries at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Engineering.
* An exhibition of plastic art by the Jordanian artist Mrs. Jaouh Joubat at the Royal Cultural Centre.
* An exhibition of Korean photographs and traditional handicrafts at Yarmouk University.

MUSICAL
* "Oliver" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTRES
Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre 44371
American Centre Library 44120
British Council 44125
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 34049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Hays Arts Centre 665195
Husseini Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also moccasins, beads and jewelry (4th to 19th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muscat, Jabel Alweibidh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.
Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

SERVICE CLUBS
Lions Amman Club: Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club: Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club: Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club: Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 3:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club, Jabel Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.

CHURCHES
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Alweibidh, 37440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 25541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, 25383.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 775261.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 775261.
Armenian Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751.
Assyrian International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School at Shmeisani, 816534.

PRAYER TIMES
06:26 Fajr
07:07 (Sunrise) Duha
11:46 Dhuhur
12:59 Asr
03:02 Maghreb
19:06 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 53250, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

09:30 Agaba (RJ)
09:30 Dubai (RJ)
09:45 Kuwait (RJ)
09:45 Jeddah (RJ)
09:45 Cairo (RJ)
09:55 Dhabran (RJ)
09:55 Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 Muscat, Doha (RJ)
10:30 Beirut (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:30 Dhabran, Riyadh (RJ)
10:45 Singapore, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:50 Laraca, Damascus (RJ)
12:15 Moscow (SU)
12:50 Kuwait (RJ)
14:00 Baghdad (IA)
14:15 New York, Vienna (RJ)
14:00 Amsterdam, Istanbul (RJ)
14:00 Cairo (RJ)
14:15 Tripoli (RJ)
14:15 Zurich, Laraca (RJ)
14:20 Athens (OA)
14:20 Rome, Damascus (RJ)
14:30 Frankfurt, Damascus (RJ)
01:10 Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES:

07:00 Beirut (RJ)
07:15 Agaba (RJ)
11:15 Tripoli (RJ)
11:20 Cairo (RJ)
11:20 Dhabran (RJ)
11:25 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:15 Riyadh, Dhabran (RJ)
12:15 Istanbul, Bucharest (RJ)
12:20 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
12:30 Rome (RJ)
12:30 Bahrain (RJ)
14:30 Cairo (RJ)
14:30 Moscow (SU)
14:40 Kuwait (RJ)
17:15 Baghdad (IA)
18:30 Kuwait (RJ)
20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:10 Baghdad (RJ)
22:00 Bangkok (RJ)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Agaba port:

— Nazam Maru
— Nikos N
— Mifaili Moushiq
— Ibn Outalib
— Petra Schute
— Elarish

Amman Kavar and Sons Company, Tel: 22324 (six lines) at your service.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local currency rates in JLD
Belgian franc 61.1/ 61.6
Dutch guilder 105.5/ 105.4
Egyptian pound 305.1/ 308.1
French franc 40.3/ 40.6
Iraqi dinar 398.3/ 405
Italian lire (for 100) 19.6/ 19.9
Japanese yen (for 100) 160.1/ 161.3
Kuwaiti dinar 1560.8/ 1569.5
Lebanese lira 26.3/ 27.4
Omani rial 1200/ 1206.6
Omani rial 114.4/ 115
Saudi riyal 113.3/ 114
Swedish crown 43.3/ 43.6
Swiss franc 144.1/ 145.3
Syrian lire 36.3/ 38
U.A.E. dirham 113.3/ 114
U.K

Obeidat asks government offices not to hire staff

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat has issued a communique to all government offices in the country instructing them not to appoint new employees from now until July 1, 1985.

In his communique the prime minister said that a special Royal Commission entrusted with reconsidering the civil service system is going ahead with its task and therefore the new decision is being taken to help the commission finalise its mission.

According to the communique, government departments must:

- 1- Stop all procedures for appointing new employees in any jobs regardless of their grade and the vacancies available or the allocations allotted for them.

- 2- Desist from making any amendments to the status of employees with regard to their position or salary. Only the annual increment can be offered.

- 3- Refrain from introducing any amendment to the scale of employees regardless of the reasons that necessitate such amendment.

The communique said that any cases where vacancies should be filled in extraordinary situations should be referred to the prime minister himself for study coupled with recommendations from the concerned department. All official organisations and public institutions including those which enjoy financial and administrative independence should abide by the new regulations, the communique said.



United Nations Relief and Works Agency Commissioner General Olof Rydbeck (at head of table) Monday holds a press conference in Amman to outline the agency's plans to continue services to Pal-

estinian refugees and the efforts being made by agency officials to raise funds to offset the budget deficit the agency is facing (Petra photo)

UNRWA chief discusses agency's budget deficit Rydbeck denies imminent cuts in UNRWA services to Palestinian refugees

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Monday categorically denied reports that the agency was planning immediate cuts in its services to Palestinian refugees but cautioned that the agency may be forced to do so if it fails to offset its 1985 budget deficit before May of this year.

At a press conference held at the headquarters of the agency in Amman, UNRWA Commissioner-General Olof Rydbeck said measures adopted by the agency to offset a budget deficit of \$67 million for the fiscal year 1985 did not include any reduction in services to refugees in various host countries and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Rydbeck, who was speaking to reporters at the end of a four-day visit to Jordan, also expressed optimism that UNRWA would be able to overcome its financial crisis.

UNRWA, which had been running into financial difficulties over the past several years, was able to survive through several alternate means of finance, Mr. Rydbeck said. But, he added, these options are no longer available to the agency and he implied that this year could be the most crucial in the history of 35-year-old specialised U.N. agency, which depends solely on international contributions for its existence.

UNRWA decided earlier this year on cost reductions totalling \$40 million to offset the \$67 million budget deficit, but these measures do not include any cut in services offered by the agency, Mr. Rydbeck explained.

According to a press release by the agency, the recommended measures include a freeze in recruitment of new staff, eliminating the necessity of further teachers and premises by increasing the number of students in class rooms of the agency's schools in various host countries, seven to 50 per cent cuts in budgets for transport, travel, educational supplies and equipment and the deferment of secondary maintenance work on buildings and equipment in addition to a freeze on all new construction of schools and clinics.

However, the agency is continuing to build schools and health centres with special funds not included in the general budget. These special funds are contributed for these specific purposes by various governments and organisations, in addition to their regular contribution to the agency.

The "austerity measures" adopted by the agency also include the abolishment of 38 administrative jobs at the UNRWA headquarters in Vienna and Amman and the deferment of pay increases for staff which were due as of the beginning of 1985.

"Any large organisation can always absorb such reductions," Mr. Rydbeck commented Monday.

The \$40 million cost reductions still left a cash budget deficit of \$27 million in the \$205 million budget for this year. Mr. Rydbeck said he had sent out appeals to various donor countries and organisations to help the agency to fight the crisis.

Mr. Rydbeck revealed that he himself had been in touch with a number of European countries, including Sweden and Norway, and that "the response had been very encouraging."

The U.S., which contributes \$67 million annually to UNRWA, is the biggest single source of funds for the agency, followed by Japan and the European Community and other member states of the United Nations. Switzerland, despite being a non-member of the U.N., had been offering substantial help to the agency, Mr. Rydbeck said.

He attributed part of the UNRWA crisis to the high exchange rate of the American dollar, explaining that all contributions to the agency except the American and Japanese, are in the national currencies of the donor states and the amounts lose much of their international value when converted into the American currency.

UNRWA envoys have been shuttling between European capitals in a bid to obtain pledges of financial support for the agency and, according to Mr. Rydbeck, "the actual situation will be clear only by end of May."

He warned that the agency would be forced to "consider major reductions" in the event that it failed to offset the budget deficit.

When asked what specific sectors or host countries the agency was contemplating reductions in such an event, Mr. Rydbeck refused comment. "I am a very optimistic man and it is my hope that we will be able to fight off this crisis," he said.

He said he was planning to meet Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, who is the current chairman of the European Community (EC), to discuss the UNRWA problem and seek EC help in efforts to alleviate the crisis. Also, other UNRWA envoys are expected to meet U.S. and Canadian officials soon on similar missions, he said.

The UNRWA commissioner-general, who held talks with Prime

Minister Ahmad Obeidat, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Shawkat Mahmoud and other senior Jordanian government officials during his current visit, described his talks in Amman as part of consultations with the governments of the host countries on the agency's activities.

He praised the Jordanian government's efforts in the international scene to seek support for UNRWA and said: "I had come here to brief them (the Jordanian government) on the situation in UNRWA and seek their help in the international scene, but I found that they are already doing what I was hoping they would do."

"I have come away very satisfied" from talks with the Jordanian ministers and officials, he said.

Mr. Rydbeck revealed that he had also met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, whom he described as a personal friend, and urged him to bring up the issue of UNRWA during talks in Washington earlier this year. Mr. Abdul Meguid visited Washington in January and held talks with senior Reagan administration officials and congressmen including Secretary of State George Shultz. The Egyptian foreign minister is also accompanying Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak who arrived in Washington on an official visit Saturday.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and UNRWA are also keeping close contacts, with each other, Mr. Rydbeck said. He lauded the PLO's efforts to secure further international financial support for the agency.

Asked to comment on the situation in South Lebanon, where UNRWA faced a grave crisis in the wake of the Israeli invasion in 1982, Mr. Rydbeck said the agency was maintaining its basic services to the Palestinian refugees living there. However, he added, schools in the Israeli occupied zone in South Lebanon face intermittent closures due to "security reasons."

In reply to a question by the Jordan Times whether UNRWA's campaign in 1982 to raise \$55 million as a special fund for Lebanon set back the agency's options to raise funds to avert the current crisis, Mr. Rydbeck said: "Yes, up to a certain extent."

During his current visit to Amman, Mr. Rydbeck also met with representatives of the agency's staff in Jordan and elders from Palestinian refugee camps in the Kingdom. UNRWA Public Information Officer William Lee described the meetings as "routine" and said the UNRWA commissioner was briefing the staff representatives and refugee leaders on the activities of the agency.

Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Khatib and reviewed IESC technical aid in exploring and evaluating the use of coal instead of conventional fuel sources. An IESC coal expert is working with the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) for this purpose, Mr. Teague said.

He said that Mr. Carroll reviewed a signed agreement with Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB) which provides for an assistant to conduct a feasibility study on the CVDB's activities, loans and credits.

He also met with Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani and the ministry's under secretary, Dr. Ibrahim Badran, and discussed means to technically upgrade Jordan's private enterprises. He also met with Minister of

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Anani meets Somali foreign minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Trade and Industry Jawad Al Anani Monday met Somali Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Ali Hammed for discussions on trade and economic relations between the two countries. Dr. Anani assured the Somali official of Jordan's willingness to provide Somalia with its needs of Jordanian experts. Mr. Hammed invited Dr. Anani to visit Somalia and the Jordanian minister accepted the invitation.

ARA drafts five-year plan

AQABA (Petra) — The Aqaba Regional Authority (ARA) has drafted its 1986-1990 development plan and will distribute it to all ministries, departments and institutions for study, according to ARA President Mohammad Said Abu Nowar. He said that the authority's board of directors has endorsed a number of projects including the city's structural plan and development of the beach area in addition to the establishment of parks and a fun-fair complex.

Ajlouni leaves for health ministers' talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Kamel Al Ajlouni left Amman for Iraq Monday. Dr. Ajlouni is heading a Jordanian delegation which will participate in a six day meeting of the council of Arab health ministers. During the meeting, ways of promoting health services and medical cooperation in the Arab World will be discussed. The Ministry of Health has prepared a working paper on the services the ministry offers to Jordanians.

Trade team from Djibouti arrives today

AMMAN (Petra) — A trade delegation from Djibouti, headed by Djibouti's Minister of Industry Fihmi Ahmad Al Haj will arrive in Amman Tuesday. During their stay they will meet with Minister of Trade and Industry Jawad Al Anani for talks on promoting business and economic ties between the two countries.

Abdul Jaber returns from ALO meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Tayseer Abdul Jaber returned to Amman Monday after attending the thirteenth session of the Arab Labour Organisation's (ALO) conference in Baghdad.

Dr. Abdul Jaber told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that the ALO's conference recommended the upgrading of services offered by various Arab labour offices in the Arab World, the assurance of the ALO's fixed annual budget and increasing ALO's work to meet the needs of the Arab World.

He said that the conference took the decision to cut down the expenses of 1986's budget, especially since a lot of Arab countries have failed or are far behind in paying their annual allocations to the organisation.

He added that the conference decided to form a committee whose responsibility should be to check and monitor the ALO's budget.

The conference also discussed the strategies to be implemented in relation to developing Arab manpower as well as discussing the Arab Labour Organisation's plans for 1986.

He added that the conference elected a director, general and members for the board of directors for each organisation within the ALO.

Road accidents in 1984 kill 450, injure 7,500

IRBID (Petra) — A total of 450 people were killed and 7,500 others were injured in the road accidents which occurred throughout the country during 1984, according to a recent study on road accidents in Jordan published in Al Yarmouk magazine issued by Yarmouk University.

The study said that the volume of material losses resulting from these accidents was JD 33 million while the death toll for the years 1981, 1982 and 1983 reached 1,385 dead and 25,572 injured.

A number of officials and specialists interviewed by the magazine attributed the road accidents in the country to non-abidance of traffic regulations, the inability of roads to accommodate the increasing volume of traffic, insufficient education on traffic awareness at home and at schools as well as a relaxation in the application of law against violators. They also called for planning the construction of roads and providing them with safety requirements.

Tafileh resident dies from rabies after wolf attack

TAFILEH (J.T.) — A citizen from Tafleeh, identified as A.M. Kh. died here Sunday of rabies. He was one of seven people injured by hungry wolves which attacked Al Qadiseh village near Tafleeh on Feb. 18.

Special anti-rabies vaccines have been administered to those injured in the attack and the local health authorities have certain measures to stop in spread of rabies, according to a report in the Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper.

The paper also reported the death of a 22-year old man in Madaba.

identified only as FZ, died of asphyxiation from gas. The man was found lying lifeless on the floor of a room in which he used to live and beside him was found a gas cylinder with its pipe held in his hand with its tip placed in his nose, according to the report.

The prosecutor general in Madaba Colonel Abdul Karim Al Sarlah and the police director supervised the breaking down of the door to the room where the body was found and are also holding an investigation. The paper said that the dead man's brother died under similar circumstances a year ago.

Plastic surgery — not only nose jobs and facelifts

By Josephine Zanarini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The most popular cosmetic surgery for a Japanese woman is a little snip which widens the eye into a more European shape. American ladies have silicon inserts placed into their breasts for the bigger look and middle-aged Europeans are accustomed to an occasional face-lift. But what about Jordanian women? They favour the nose job or rhino-plasty.

Plastic surgery entails far more than cosmetic touch-ups to the face and body as it fills an important medical function in the demanding realm of reconstructive surgery, according to two leading Jordanian plastic surgeons, Dr. Farid Yaghnam and Dr. Ghailth Shubailat.

Whilst cosmetic plastic surgery, face-lifts, nose jobs and so on require no medical underpinning and are usually only to enhance the face or body's appearance, reconstructive plastic surgery actually patches or remakes physically and congenitally damaged areas.

Surgical reconstruction of the face and body is carried out on a wide variety of anomalies including bone deformities, hand and finger reconstructions — especially after accidents, head, neck and skin problems relating to can-

cer, the tragic congenital defects of children ranging from cleft palate to undefined sex gender, as well as reconstruction after burns.

For both doctors, reconstructive surgery is the "exciting area" and neither would wish, like so many American physicians, to simply do face-lifts and rhino plastics all their working lives, although Dr. Shubailat concedes that cosmetic surgery is "clean", has a low complication rate and the patients are pleasant to deal with.

Public awareness

Dr. Yaghnam, the founder of Jordanian plastic and reconstructive surgery, has seen considerable change in public acceptance since he set up clinic in Amman in 1963. Most of his early work was reconstructive surgery particularly after the 1967 war when many young soldiers were returned from the front wounded, some with horrific napalm burns. In the past ten years, however, public awareness has grown concerning the benefits of cosmetic surgery and he now estimates that it constitutes 35-40 per cent of his practice.

For Dr. Yaghnam, a genial and gentle medical man, who received his post graduate surgical training at the American University of Beirut and further specialised in

plastic surgery in the U.S., his branch of medicine combines the decisive skills of the surgeon with artistic talents. Both he and his younger colleague, Dr. Shubailat, have worked for the Jordanian Armed Forces and both have been instrumental in teaching a new generation of Jordanian plastic surgeons.

Dr. Shubailat also trained in plastic surgery in the United States after post graduate surgical studies in both England and America. After returning he formed the plastic and reconstructive surgical department at the King Hussein Medical Centre. In 1974 he initiated a training programme for five young doctors in plastic surgery and after twenty-eight years in the military he retired to private practice last year.

Dr. Shubailat, a lively man of military bearing, said that at the King Hussein Medical Centre only 15 per cent of his work consisted of cosmetic surgery. Of the remaining reconstructive surgery more than half was devoted to surgical repairs to children with congenital defects. However, in his own clinic almost 50 per cent of Dr. Shubailat's work is in cosmetic surgery with the nose job predominating.

Cosmetic surgery

Both doctors agree that the

great majority of their patients in cosmetic surgery are women. Men do occasionally have their noses straightened, but the underlying reasons are medical, usually obstruction of the nasal airways, whilst for women the procedure is purely cosmetic. Most of the two doctors' patients are young women in their late teens or early twenties.

Dr. Yaghnam explained that the size of a new nose must be in relation to the woman's height, build and facial shape. The rhino plasty is performed with a local anaesthetic. Another fairly common Amman operation, which reduces the size of the tummy, requires a general anaesthetic. During the four hour operation an incision is made below the bikini line, the skin is peeled back, defects are corrected, the muscles strengthened, and then the skin is pulled down again and shortened. Most abdominal operations are carried out on older women who have usually had several children and they are particularly successful on slimmer women.

Bigger or smaller breasts

Both breast enlargement and reduction operations are carried out here by the two doctors. For enlargements, silicon is inserted under the breast muscle leaving a scar only under the breast or an incision is made around the nipple again leaving only minimal scarring. Dr. Shubailat says that the types of silicon now available are completely safe and that even plastic inflatable inserts are obtainable on the market. The breast reduction operation is also a long one, requires a general anaesthetic and the patient must expect some scarring.

The European favourite, the face-lift, is not popular here according to the two doctors and of the women who come seeking advice, few return. The procedure is lengthy — taking five to six hours and is performed under local anaesthetic. The results are better in Arab women due to their skin type, lasting from eight to ten years, whilst for Europeans the time span is six to eight years.

For Dr. Shubailat, the most exciting area of plastic and reconstructive surgery is the new field of micro vascular surgery. Prior to this revolution skin, muscle, and tissue grafting was a tedious business which could take up to a year

and involve many trips to the hospital. Now, with the new micro process, "skin, fat, muscle and sometimes even bone can be removed in tiny millimetre or less sections, to the injured area directly. The small section is then attached, to an already identified vein or artery," said Dr. Shubailat.

The micro vascular process has been simplified, he added, as every area in the body has been mapped and identified. Such operations are lengthy and conducted completely under the microscope. Ten operations involving severed limbs have been carried out at the King Hussein Medical Centre by Dr. Shubailat and his team with a success rate of 80 per cent. The procedure has wide application and although such operations may take up to ten hours, the time and pain saved the patient with micro surgery is enormous.

Infant's deformities

For Dr. Yaghnam the most gratifying surgery is performed on babies with congenital deformities. The birth of a baby with some physical anomaly places enormous stress on the parents, so "I prefer to operate when the child is young, say two weeks old, or as soon as his weight picks up," said Dr. Yaghnam. For cleft palate surgery, depending on the amount of damage, an operation can include restructuring skin, muscle, mucus membrane and gum, he added.

Another satisfying operation for Dr. Yaghnam is the repairing of limbs damaged in factory or work accidents. "Without the use of his hand, a man is practically a cripple," said Dr. Yaghnam. He added that with the rise of industrialisation in Jordan such accidents are becoming more frequent. Operations of this kind are lengthy and require enormous expertise.

Plastic surgery in Jordan has none of the extreme overtones of its Western counterpart. The skill that creates a new nose for a Jordanian woman also re-implants a severed limb or saves a child the uncertain future of growing up with a cleft palate. And the fees charged by Jordanian plastic surgeons, sometimes as little as a quarter of those of European doctors, enable a wide spectrum of Jordanians to avail themselves of the expertise of physicians such as Dr. Yaghnam and Dr. Shubailat.



The delicate work of facial reconstruction surgery (J.T. file photo)

IESC president reviews methods to technically upgrade industrial projects

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The International Executive Service Corps (IESC) main interest is to promote local industry to support private enterprise and to offer technical aid in all aspects of development, IESC director in Amman Jo Teague said Monday.

Mr. Teague told the Jordan Times that IESC President Thomas Carroll has been on a three-day visit to Jordan during which he met senior Jordanian officials and reviewed with them IESC operations in Jordan.

Mr. Teague also said that the IESC, which is funded by the United States Agency for International Development in addition to private international sponsors, also aims to benefit countries in addition to providing the direct client with assistance and expertise.

During his stay in Amman, Mr. Carroll conferred with Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani and the ministry's under secretary, Dr. Ibrahim Badran, and discussed means to technically upgrade Jordan's private enterprises. He also met with Minister of

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Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Khatib and reviewed IESC technical aid in exploring and evaluating the use of coal instead of conventional fuel sources. An IESC coal expert is working with the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) for this purpose, Mr. Teague said.

He said that Mr. Carroll reviewed a signed agreement with Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB) which provides for an assistant to conduct a feasibility study on the CVDB's activities, loans and credits.

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New RCC library receives 150 books

AMMAN (J.T.) — The American Centre in Amman Monday donated to the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) 150 books related to theatre, culture, modern art and music for the RCC's newly opened library which started its operations at the beginning of this month.

RCC director Issam Aridah thanked Mrs. Boeker, wife of the American ambassador to Amman, and the American Centre's programme director Christopher Dana and Mr. John Wilcox public affairs counsellor at the American embassy for this kind contribution which he said will enrich the RCC's library.

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The older you get ...

IF ISRAEL claimed it had to invade and occupy southern Lebanon to keep Israelis safe in north Israel, what will it do to keep its army safe in southern Lebanon? Attack Tripoli and the olive groves of north Lebanon?

The spectacular suicide bomb attack against the Israeli military convoy Sunday that killed over a dozen soldiers is almost biblical in its message that occupation begets resistance, and violence spurs counter-violence. The Israelis are learning a hard lesson: There is no such thing as absolute security, even if you have access to the military hardware and intellectual softspots of the United States government. What will the Israelis do next: borrow a neutron bomb from America and use it to kill all the people of southern Lebanon, without destroying a fig tree?

What we are seeing in southern Lebanon today is not a matter of whether or not the Israelis will be allowed to retreat in safety. It is a far greater issue, relating to Israel's perception of its place in the Middle East and its relations with the Arab populations around it. There is resistance to occupation in the West Bank, in Gaza and in southern Lebanon. This is not "Shia terror", or Sunni terror, or Lebanese or Palestinian or Greek Orthodox or Omar Sharif terror. This is the inevitable reaction of people who would be free, who value liberty, self-respect and national sovereignty. These are Arab and Muslim people, like the Afghan people whose struggle for liberty against Soviet occupation is so frequently cheered in the west.

The Israelis will pay a heavy price for their adventure in Lebanon. They would be foolish indeed to miss the lessons of Lebanon: There can never be peace and tranquillity on the basis of military force or occupation. It's an old lesson, which an old people like our Jewish cousins should have learned long ago.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Israeli terrorism, Mr. West

WE HEARD no voices raised in the West condemning the explosion in West Beirut two days ago which killed tens of women and children. There was no statement deploring such attacks or calling for the respect of the civilians and their security. There was complete silence about the acts of terror which Israel and its agents had been doing in Lebanon against the innocent population. The perpetrators of these crimes were the Israelis and all their agents and supporters who had been bragging about what they called "Arab terrorism" and expressing their determination to take counter measures against it.

The explosion at the religious site in South Lebanon and the one in west Beirut which killed and injured innocent people were the acts of those who were defeated by the Lebanese resistance.

The reprisal car bomb attack on the Israeli troops in South Lebanon Sunday came as a reminder that those who plan criminal actions will not escape unharmful. The counterattack which took the form of a suicidal mission carried out by the Lebanese resistance was a heroic deed, designed to counteract terrorist actions and stop further crimes from being committed against the Lebanese people. The attack on the Israeli soldiers in the South was a natural reply to terrorism, which the Zionists had been practising against the Arab Nation.

Al Dustour: Israel pays for its crimes

THE ISRAELIS suffered heavy casualties in the daring attack launched Sunday on their troops by the Lebanese resistance in South Lebanon. The attacks which came 48 hours after the huge explosion in west Beirut came to give credence to the determination of the Lebanese resistance to take revenge on those who committed the Beirut crime against innocent civilians.

The attack near the occupied town of Metulla brought the war into Israel and allowed Israel to taste the agonies and the ordeals that it used to impose on its neighbours. The attack shattered the concept of bringing safety to the Galilee for whose sake the invasion of Lebanon was launched and for which many Israeli soldiers lost their lives. The Israelis had paid a heavy price for their adventure in Lebanon, their economy is in ruin, their society is deeply divided and now their troops are falling one after the other, foreshadowing the end of Begin, Sharon and all other terrorists.

The suicidal attack launched on the Israelis will force the Zionist leaders to think carefully and many times before embarking on another criminal adventure in Lebanon. The resistance which brought the war to Israel's border will no doubt be able to carry it beyond the border and into the heart of the occupied areas of Palestine. This is the most effective manner that can liberate the land from occupation and end Israel's colonial rule of Palestine.

Sawt Al Shaab: Unique chance for peace

THE ARAB Israeli conflict could be described as the root cause of all ills and problems plaguing the Middle East region. This region is currently facing the Iran-Iraq war with all its dangerous consequences to both sides, the deteriorating economic conditions in the region's countries and the situation in Lebanon. These all help to make the region an explosive device that might threaten the peace and security of the world at large.

The parties to these conflicts in the Middle East have proved incapable of coming up with effective means for ending this dangerous situation, and therefore, it has become incumbent on the great powers of the world to work constructively and effectively towards establishing a just peace. This region can become more explosive if the superpowers tried to gain influence at the expense of each other or by imposing hegemony on some countries for their own benefit.

The Arabs have now placed in the hands of the great powers a historic chance to establish a just peace in this region and the United States in particular is now being tested to find out if it harbours genuine intentions for ending the region's conflicts. This chance is the Jordanian-Palestinian accord, signed in Amman on Feb. 11 since it is designed to reactivate efforts for peace.

Gorbachev election as swift as his rise

From Reuters

MOSCOW — Mikhail Gorbachev, widely regarded as the likely successor to the Soviet Union's President Chernenko, swiftly climbed up the Communist Party ladder to become the youngest member of the country's top leadership.

He came to Moscow from the provinces in 1978 at the age of 47, and later became right-hand man to the late Soviet leader Yuri Andropov. He was widely seen as Mr. Andropov's choice of heir.

But when Mr. Andropov died in February 1984, the Soviet leadership went to the then 72-year-old Chernenko and Mr. Gorbachev, now 54, was left to consolidate his position as number two.

A December 1984 trip to London boosted his credentials. Mr. Gorbachev was an instant success with the British press who found him and his wife, Raisa, charming and in dramatic contrast with the sombre style usually attributed to Moscow.

Mr. Gorbachev's media popularity disconcerted Washington where Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger warned that he was on a "public relations trip" for the

Kremlin's arms policies.

In Moscow, it was suggested that acclaim for Mr. Gorbachev in the West could rebound with adverse effect and hurt his chances among conservatives for succeeding Mr. Chernenko as party leader.

But Mr. Gorbachev showed every sign of having benefited rather than suffered as a result of his tour.

A law graduate from Moscow State University, he has appeared as the apostle of change, anxious to shake up long-standing and sluggish Soviet economic practices and introduce modern management methods and new technology.

This has led some Western analysts to speculate that as leader he would prefer a period of relative detente to allow greater concentration on internal affairs. Others have cautioned against liberal expectations from any man who has made it to the top in Soviet politics.

Mr. Gorbachev was elevated to full membership of the ruling politburo in 1980 under Leonid Brezhnev, who put him in charge of an ambitious agricultural reform programme. He was not even 50 and had been in Moscow just two

years. Such early prominence

marked him out as a man to watch. Rapid promotions have typified Mr. Gorbachev's career since he graduated from Moscow University as a lawyer in 1955 and improved his position within the regional Communist Party.

A stout, balding figure with a prominent birth mark on his forehead, Mr. Gorbachev is a Russian who was born in the north Caucasus village of Privolnoye, near Stavropol in March 1931.

Mr. Gorbachev started his working life in Stavropol, an important grain-growing region. He was the city's party chief at the age of 35 and head of the entire regional party organisation four years later.

During his eight years in charge there, he gained a reputation as a skilful and flexible organiser and caught the Kremlin's eye by sharply boosting farm output.

He was summoned to Moscow in 1978 to become a party Central Committee secretary for agriculture and a year later was a candidate member of the politburo.

Continuing harvest failures overshadowed his first two years as a full member, but it emerged that

during that time Mr. Gorbachev was working on a masterplan to bring about lasting improvements in the farm system.

The plan, the food programme launched in May 1982, was to loosen bureaucratic control of farms and gave managers more power to decide without consulting ministries.

Once Mr. Andropov took over Mr. Gorbachev was able to implement his second project. Its aim was to make wages more directly dependent on results, and to encourage these workers were put on a so-called team contract under which they effectively subcontracted work from managers and split the profits.

The contract scheme applied in certain areas only, but most of those regions soon raised productivity rates.

It was these reforms which pushed Mr. Gorbachev to the fore, ahead of more established and older politburo members. But regional party members opposed his tinkering with existing structures and workers resented losing a guaranteed wage.

This meant the reforms took longer to introduce and Western analysts said he appeared to have

made many enemies among lower regional levels of the party.

Under Mr. Andropov, Mr. Gorbachev was in overall charge of economic policy and involved in party affairs and played a major role in organising elections of officials.

He assumed a more public role, visiting Canada in May 1983 which gave him badly-needed foreign affairs experience and attending the Portuguese Communist Party congress in December.

In both cases Western officials were struck by his professionalism and openness.

By this time Mr. Andropov had been absent from view for four months and it was Mr. Gorbachev who shuttled between the ailing leader and the politburo.

But Mr. Andropov died in February before Mr. Gorbachev was able to underscore this advantage and take over as general secretary.

Older sections of the party backed Mr. Chernenko for the job instead. However, younger "technocrats" supported Mr. Gorbachev and ensured he retained the number two slot and Mr. Andropov's reforms went ahead.

By April 1984, Mr. Gorbachev

had publicly consolidated his position, securing a parliamentary foreign affairs post reserved for the party ideologist, traditionally the second most powerful Kremlin job.

Further evidence that he was a would-be leader came at the same session of the Soviet parliament when Mr. Gorbachev made the speech proposing Mr. Chernenko as state president, a task which falls to the number two.

And today he was named head of the commission organising Mr. Chernenko's funeral, effectively confirming his position as heir-apparent, according to Western diplomats.

In June 1984, Mr. Gorbachev represented Moscow at the funeral of Italian Communist leader Enrico Berlinguer and in September he travelled to Sofia.

Western diplomats who have met him describe him as a highly intelligent man with an open mind who displays charm and ease of manner. They say he is also humorous and outgoing.

His elegant wife made a particular impression on the British media during the December 1984 visit. It is not known if the couple have any children.

West expects no radical change after Chernenko

By Roxanne Ervasti
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The collective Kremlin leadership that emerged during the last two successions is likely to guide the Soviet Union through another smooth transition, making no radical changes in foreign or domestic policies, according to Western specialists.

The Soviet Union announced Monday that 73-year-old President Konstantin U. Chernenko had died Sunday after a "grave illness."

There was no immediate announcement of a successor but the man considered No. 2 in the Kremlin, Mikhail S. Gorbachev, was named head of the commission

that will arrange a Red Square funeral for Mr. Chernenko.

In the past, the man who heads the commission arranging the funeral of a Soviet government and party leader has been chosen to replace him.

In November 1982, after the death of President Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Communist Party Central Committee was quick to announce its choice as his successor, Yuri V. Andropov. And after Mr. Andropov's death in February 1984, the committee again moved swiftly, announcing that Mr. Chernenko would head the party.

Mr. Chernenko has been ailing for several months, making only a few brief and strictly controlled

public appearances on Soviet Television. In the meantime, Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko made recent trips to Spain and France, politburo member Vladimir Shcherbitsky this weekend was in the United States, and other top Kremlin officials also were travelling.

This suggests that the politburo had agreed earlier on a successor and speculation has for months centred on the 54-year-old Gorbachev. Of the 11 politburo members, only Mr. Chernenko, Mr. Gorbachev and Grigory V. Romanov, 62, were also secretaries of the Communist Party.

Under the politburo's rule-by-consensus, foreign policy in

particular appears to have been formulated under Mr. Gromyko's direction with the approval of the other politburo members, who numbered 11 before Mr. Chernenko's death.

Knowledgeable foreign specialists say it takes at least five years for a Kremlin leader to amass enough power within the cautious ruling circles to push through new policies.

Those ambitious for the top spot characteristically have been conservative, careful not to provoke the long-entrenched party hierarchy. Once in power, Mr. Andropov issued pronouncements about the need to reform the centrally planned economy, but advocated nothing as bold as the eco-

nomics changes now being pushed in China.

Western observers also say the Soviet Union, while going through transition, is unlikely to be adventurous in the foreign arena.

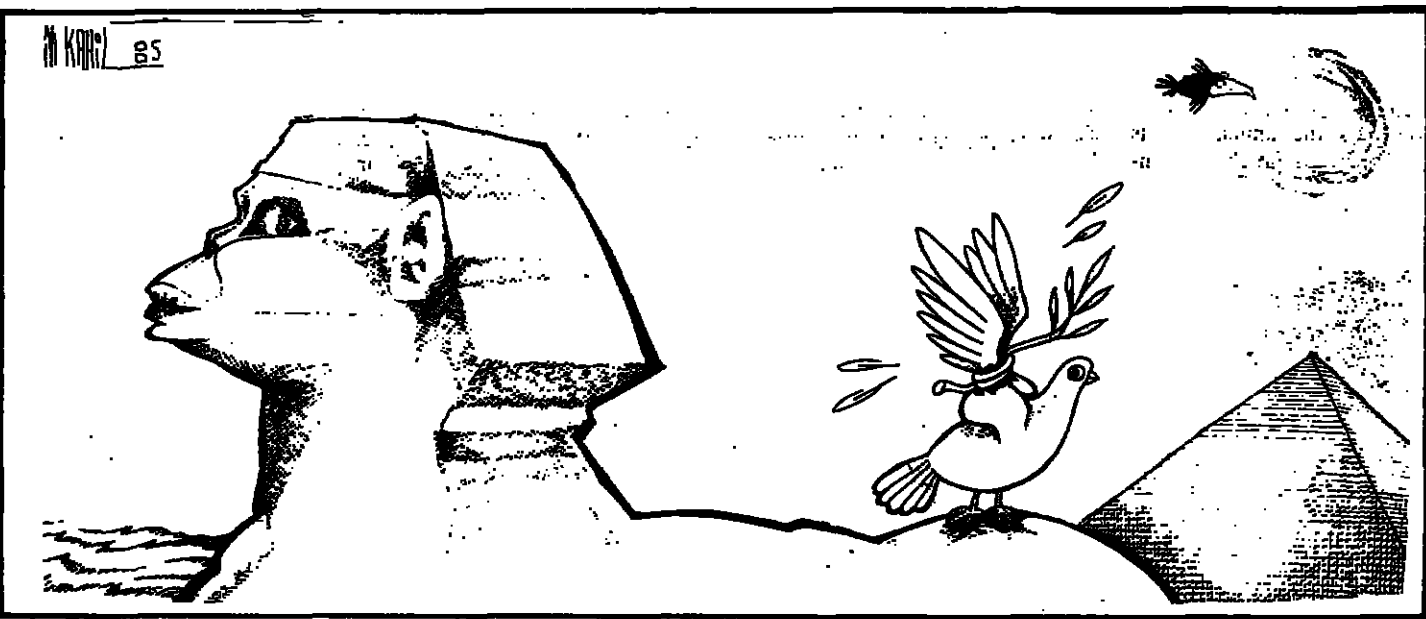
Mr. Chernenko came from a generation that matured and accumulated power in the decades after the 1917 revolution, years in which the country was torn by civil war, devastated by World War II and suffered through the purges and hardships of the Stalin years.

The ranks of those who survived the Stalin years to gain top positions of power have been thinned by advanced age. Among those who died in recent years were party ideologist Mikhail Suslov

and last December, Defence Minister Dmitri F. Ustinov, lowering the number of politburo members to 11, from the usual 14 or more.

The "old guard" is said to still hold sway, although some elder members appear not to have an influential voice in policymaking. The passing of another member of the older generation underscores the inevitable emergence of a younger team.

Although selection of a new leader may not in itself alter Soviet domestic or foreign policies, the party is now preparing a new party programme, the document that sets goals and policy guidelines in ideology, domestic policy and foreign affairs.



Honduras reconsiders priorities

The Honduran government of President Zuazo Cordoba is losing popularity because of its close links to the U.S., reports Tim Cooney. Opposition leaders are beginning to call for a more independent line.

TEGUCIGALPA — The shudder of U.S. military helicopters over the Honduran capital is now a familiar daily experience for the city's inhabitants as the next round of joint military manoeuvres, Big Pine III, gets under way. These latest manoeuvres, designed to improve Honduran troop performance, to get U.S. troops used to the region and to pressure the Sandinistas to the south, will reach their peak in April with the use of U.S. heavy armour for the first time just a few miles north of the Nicaraguan frontier.

However, all is not going well between the two erstwhile allies. Honduras is in an election year, the economy is facing the most serious foreign exchange crisis in its history and the army is worried about a possible flood of U.S.-backed Nicaraguan guerrillas pouring into the country in the face of an all-out Sandinista offensive to the south.

Added to that, a powerful opposition alliance is beginning to shake the grip that the ruling group of Liberals presently hold over domestic and foreign policy. The new alliance, the Coordinadora Opositora Democrática Constitucionalista (Codoco), is a parliamentary coalition of centre-right National Party leaders, Christian Democrats and left-wing Liberals.

A common denominator has emerged between the otherwise ideologically diverse groups that Honduras must exert greater independence, especially on foreign policy issues, and that the democratisation process begun in 1980 with the transfer from military to civilian rule must be consolidated.

A National Party leader, Dr.

Rafael Callejas, a well-known conservative, said: "Although it is called a democracy in Honduras, President Zuazo Cordoba has turned it into a totalitarian government." The president's opponents on both right and left complain of his interference in the affairs of the National Party, manipulation of the Liberal Party political machinery, widespread corruption in ministries controlled by his supporters and claim that the Supreme Court is used as just one more tool in the president's political armoury.

Even U.S. embassy officials admit in private to disillusionment with the ruling group of Liberals and their questionable business deals. The Honduran forestry industry, said one, "is the biggest source of Liberal Party patronage in the country."

In the face of increasing isolation, president Zuazo Cordoba has already had to withdraw support from Mr. Carlos Fauce, his favoured candidate as his successor in the November election. Mr. Fauce is linked to powerful industrial concerns interested in taking advantage of the Reagan-sponsored Caribbean Basin Initiative for Honduras.

The government will face its first serious challenges in the coming weeks as the Codoco alliance flexes its muscles and takes on the president's group of Liberals in Congress.

According to Mr. Jorg Arturo Reina, leader of a left-wing Liberal group in Congress, moves to improve the electoral law and to change the directorate of Congress will seriously weaken President Cordoba's control, both within congress and his own party, if Codoco can muster a majority

vote in congress. Mr. Reina believes they can do just that. The president would then be obliged to use his veto, which could provoke a constitutional crisis and would certainly bring people on to the streets, according to Mr. Reina.

The challenge has worried the ruling Liberals, to the extent that a crude smear campaign is now under way to link Codoco with an unsubstantiated document calling for a military coup against the president. Codoco's leaders, on the contrary, are totally opposed to military involvement in the democratic process and the army itself, under the leadership of General Walter Lopez, seems content to take a back seat as the political parties battle for power.

Of greater concern to the military is the fear that the Nicaraguan contras may face military defeat in Nicaragua and flood back into Honduras. The contra forces of the FDN, at an estimated 10,000 to 12,000, are almost as big as the Honduran armed forces, and its leadership was closely linked to the Honduran military strongman General Gustavo Alvarez, who was deposed by General Lopez last March.

On the economic front, debt service payments this year are scheduled at between \$400 million and \$500 million, over half of all foreign exchange earnings. The \$400 million balance of payments deficit on current account is covered almost entirely by U.S. aid, according to a senior ministerial aide in the Economy Ministry.

In return for continuing economic aid, however, the U.S. is now pressing for a devaluation of the currency, which in an election year has been ruled out by the government.

Mr. John Negroponte, the U.S. Ambassador to Honduras, said: "The U.S. is responsive to Hon-

duras' needs and the talks are going ahead. But we also have to consider Congress and public opinion at home." Economic support funds of \$148 million are being held up until the Honduran government obliges with the desired economic adjustments.

Ostensibly, the talks between Honduras and the U.S. are over the renegotiation of a 1954 military treaty. However, it appears that the issue at the heart of the blocked negotiations is that of the contras.

A U.S. embassy official admitted that, although officially not part of the talks, "the contras are an underlying concern for the Hondurans." It is virtually the only negotiating lever the Hondurans have, given that the Reagan administration views the contras as a crucial factor in bending the Sandinistas to Washington's will, and given Honduras' key role as the supply route to the guerrillas.

Dr. Paz Barria, the Honduran foreign minister, said the contras "must respect the laws of the country or else be sanctioned."

One high level military officer said: "We have to recognise that the Sandinistas have consolidated themselves in Nicaragua and we are not going to be able to change that. It is the U.S.'s problem now."

Whether Honduras can sustain this trend will now depend on its ability to convince the U.S. that failure to provide sufficient economic aid will lead to an explosion of social tensions in Honduras. The final deal, however, may be to toe the U.S. foreign policy line in exchange for U.S.-financed domestic solvency, but it could spell the political end for the present ruling group of Liberals — Financial Times news feature.

Mubarak explores Washington's readiness to resume peace effort

By Robert H. Reid
Associated Press

CAIRO — President Hosni Mubarak's talks in Washington, which began Monday, represent the latest in a long series of initiatives that have foundered over one major obstacle: The Palestinians.

How much should the Palestinians, in particular the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), concede to Israel in the form of recognition of the Jewish state's right to exist?

What can the Palestinians and the PLO expect in return, given Israel's position as an internationally accepted state and its formal annexation of Arab East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights?

Who should speak for the Palestinians, the PLO, Arab states, or Palestinians not affiliated with the guerrilla movement?

Those questions have dogged every peace initiative in the Middle East since Israel overran the West Bank of the Jordan River and Gaza Strip in the 1967 war.

So far the Israelis refuse to negotiate with the PLO or its members, preferring instead direct talks with Jordan and Egypt over the West Bank and Gaza.

But Egypt, Jordan and the rest of the Arab World consider the PLO the only representative of the Palestinians. Without acceptance at least by Yasser Arafat's wing of the PLO, it is unlikely a substantial Arab bloc could afford to bless any peace formula.

Mr. Arafat's opposition to the 1978 Camp David agreements, which called for Jordanian and Palestinian — though not specifically PLO — participation in peace talks with Israel, largely was responsible for that effort's failure to forge a regional peace.

Mr. Mubarak will tell the U.S. administration that his initiative offers an advantage the others have lacked: Egypt, Jordan and Mr. Arafat support it.

"Let the United States offer something," said the state-run Cairo daily Al-Gomhuria. "Arafat will then be able to win support for further Palestinian moves towards peace."

Mr. Mubarak will propose in Washington that President Ronald Reagan invite a delegation of Jordanians and Palestinians to a "preliminary dialogue" as a first step towards negotiations with Israel.

The Egyptians believe this would convince Washington of Palestinian willingness to deal with Israel and to accept its right to exist.

But the Egyptian plan, endorsed by Jordan, is opposed by

Israel and hardline Arab states such as Syria for the same reason. Neither wants to see the United States deal with Mr. Arafat.

That would undermine Israel's position with the United States and strengthen Mr. Arafat's backers in the PLO in their struggle with opponents within the PLO.

The Egyptian formula does not provide clear answers to the three basic questions: What concessions will the Palestinians offer? How much land will be returned? And how will the Palestinians be represented?

Egyptian diplomats admit this privately but hope a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue will overcome the differences in time.

Egypt and Jordan maintain that Mr. Arafat in effect already recognises Israel's right to exist through a Feb. 11 agreement he reached with Jordan.

The agreement called for, among other things, a regional settlement based on all U.N. General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In doing so, the agreement implied acceptance of Security Council Resolution 242 of November 1967, which calls for Israeli withdrawal from territories captured in 1967 and affirms the right of all states in the region to exist in peace.

The Reagan administration insists on specific PLO acceptance of Resolution 242 as the price of a new U.S. peace initiative.

At the same time, the United States and Israel would be unwilling to accept other of the U.N. resolutions lumped into the Jordanian-PLO agreement, such as those equating Zionism with racism or calling for a Palestinian state.

Mr. Arafat has refused to go farther in acknowledging Israel's right to exist — which the PLO leader refers to as "my last card" — without a clear sign the Israelis will deal with the PLO and cede territory.

To overcome these obstacles, Mr. Mubarak has left the makeup of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation unclear.

He has avoided specifying whether the Palestinians must be PLO members, saying only that "the PLO is everywhere in the West Bank and Gaza." The remark implies that any Palestinian of stature at least would support the PLO.

Egyptian diplomats, speaking privately, have hinted that the Palestinians need not be PLO members but merely acceptable to both the PLO and Israel.

إلى جيف

The Moonies—a power in the service of rightwing policies

By Jean-Francois Boyer and Alejandro Alem

Known for the spiritual influence it can have on young people in many countries, the Unification Church, more frequently known as the "Moon sect or Moonies" from the name of its founder, is also a real economic power: in the service of anticommunism. This investigation describes the main components of this vast industrial and financial empire, its ramifications in Latin American dictatorships and its activities in Europe, especially in France.

IT IS from his office on the third floor of Montevideo's daily "Ultimas Noticias" building that Julian Saffi, the newspaper's director, runs his other business as well — two printing plants, the main luxury hotel in the city and the country's third largest bank, not to mention a number of property holdings. And he owes this local empire to the founder of the Unification Church.

On his office wall is a photograph showing President Reagan effusively shaking hands with Colonel Bo Hi Pak, a former South Korean army officer who is now Rev. Moon's right-hand man. At 41, Julian Saffi is today worth over \$50 million. A former journalist who used to run the Uruguayan dictatorship's propaganda service up until five years ago, he still cannot get over it: "I'm not a businessman... If I'm one, it's not because I'm a genius in business, but because I'm trusted by the Rev. Moon."

Mr. Saffi has had a lot of luck. At 20 he was a reporter of "La Manana," the big conservative morning daily, and did not seem cut out for a brilliant career. But he met and married the daughter of the newspaper's owner, Manini Rios, a local political right-wing boss of the Colorado Party. He did not become a talented journalist for all that. His former newspaper colleagues remember him as a serious and professional man, but not much more. He nevertheless rose rapidly in his father-in-law's business, becoming successively director of "La Manana" and "El Diario," the group's other newspaper. He then joined up with far-right groups, through the agency of his brother-in-law, Hugo Manini Rios, a leader of the fascist youth organisation, Juventud Uruguaya de Pie. Already at this time, Mr. Saffi was on good terms with the embassies of Taiwan, South Africa and South Korea. And he wrote several reports on these three countries at their invitation.

Following the 1973 military coup, it came as no surprise then to see him running a group of journalists who worked for the military government's public relations department. In January 1980, he met the South Korean Colonel Bo Hi Pak, who at the

time was visiting conservative newspapers in the Southern Cone looking for editorial writers with English and Spanish for launching a big Spanish-language daily in the United States. With a copy of the "News World" under his arm (the first daily Moon established in the U.S.), Bo Hi Pak went canvassing "La Nacion" and "El Mercurio" in Santiago (Chile), "La Nacion" and the Argentine dictatorship's official news agency Telam in Buenos Aires, and "La Folha da Tarde" in Brazil.

Impressed by the arguments developed in "News World", which makes no secret of its anti-communist and antiprogressive attitudes, several rightwing journalists teamed up with Rev. Moon's deputy. They were Manuel Fuentes (editor-in-chief of the Santiago, Chile La Nacion), Tomas MacHale (editor-in-chief of the Santiago El Mercurio), Antonio Aggio (editor-in-chief of the Sao Paulo Folha da Tarde), and in particular Antonio Rodriguez Carmona from Telam, who in 1979 began working on the project to launch the future Spanish-language daily. Mr. Carmona introduced Mr. Pak to Mr. Saffi, who took up the colonel's offer of a month's training course with the newspaper's editorial team in New York. A few months later the paper appeared as "Noticias del Mundo".

Mr. Saffi returned to Uruguay a changed man. He had met Moon and discovered that Moon, who was now living in the United States, was much more than a religious leader. He was one of the world's richest men and wanted to put the profits from his company to work in the interests of a new anti-communist multinational. Two disclosures gave an idea of the resources Moon had for plunging into this battle. In November 1984, Julian Saffi told us that while Moon's businesses were for the most part based in South Korea, Japan and the United States, there isn't a single country in the Western world where Moon has no interests. That same month, two former Japanese heads of the Unification Church, Yoshikazu Soejima and Hiraoki Inoue, disclosed to "Washington Post" that the Japanese branch of the church alone had transferred \$800

million to the United States over the previous nine years for funding political activities and new business.

The Moon empire is a nebula which has still not been properly studied. But the testimony of renegades and information obtained in court actions against the Unification Church provide a slightly clearer idea. Its power is first and foremost underpinned by the near-monopoly it has in processing and marketing ginseng (the aromatic root of an arborescent plant that is supposed to tune up the system, ginseng is now marketed in Europe). The factories are in South Korea and all the import-export firms around the world dealing in the product — this is not their only activity — belong to Moon. One example: in France and French-speaking Africa, it is the firm of Alpha et Omega. "Moon also has stakes in South Korea's light and heavy industry," says Mr. Saffi, "and he takes part in the armament effort imposed on all industrialists by the Seoul government." His firm, Tonghill, for example, produces parts for the M-16 assault rifle and the M-79 rocket-launcher manufactured under U.S. licence. Moon is also said to control the Korean Titanium Industrial Company.

Established in the U.S. since 1972, Moon has also built up a tidy little fortune there. In 1977, using Korean, Chinese and Japanese intermediaries, he obtained control of the Diplomat National Bank. Then he went into the fisheries industry, acquiring a shipyard at Bayou (Alabama) which built two fish-processing ships, and two shipbuilding firms — International Ocean Enterprises on the east coast and Golden Gate Sea Food on the west. The fish, caught and deep-frozen on the spot, is sent to Japan. "Moon also has a fleet of 70 trawlers off the coast of Guyana," revealed Mr. Saffi.

In an interview he gave UPI in 1984, the head of the Unification Church in the U.S., Mose Durst, indicated that the church's various holdings generated annual profits to the tune of \$500 million. To this must be added the Unification Church's profits from sales of flowers and holy objects by its followers all over the world. For the U.S., these amounted to \$30 million, said Mr. Durst. A rough projection puts the annual profits from all these Moon church ventures at a total of \$700 million which is about as much as Toyota's and more than Unilever's. ITT's or Chrysler's.

True, the group expanded from 1980 to 1984, but at the time Mr. Saffi met Moon, the latter already

had substantial resources. The plan he unfolded to this minor Uruguayan newspaper director was grandiose. "The Third World war has begun," Moon told him, "and it will not be won with arms but with ideas." To vanquish Communism wherever it was a threat — in Latin America in particular — the "new messiah" wanted to provide himself with two tools: an up-to-date and highly professional international press group, and a transnational organisation for training and guiding leaders in selected countries so they could be the Unification Church's political arm.

The press group was to be based on the firm publishing the first two newspapers founded by Moon in the U.S. — "News World" (Dec. 31, 1976) and "Noticias del Mundo" (April 22, 1980). The publishing firm, which was first called News World Communications and later Time Tribune Corporation, run by its president Bo Hi Pak, added the illustrious "Washington Times" (March 1, 1982) to its stable for competing with the big liberal "Washington Post". The firm then changed the name of "News World" to "New York Tribune" to run it with far more resources against the liberal "New York Times".

As for the anticommunist international, it was set up by Moon in New York under the name of Causa. It too was placed under Bo Hi Pak's management. Its first priority was the Southern Cone. Julian Saffi was given the job of implementing the plan in Uruguay. He was given the means for it — \$50 million deposited in 1980 in Uruguay's third biggest bank, Banco de Credito, using the services of an offshore bank, Kami Ltd., based in the Grand Cayman island. Some swift juggling with book transfers, the secret of which is known only in international financial markets, transferred ownership of Kami Ltd. to Mr. Saffi. That same year he received reinforcements in the shape of Stephen Boyd, a young American missionary, who set up in Montevideo. For four years they worked together, dividing up the jobs, and were soon helped out by two other sect members, Ingrid and Werner Lindeman, both German.

Then things began to move very rapidly. Mr. Saffi's connections with military and conservative circles were paying off fully. Causa Uruguay held its first seminar in April 1981, which showed quite clearly how much Moon could count on the support of Latin American military men in running his crusade. The seminar took place on the premises of the government tourist department.

General Luis Queirolo, commander-in-chief of the Uruguayan Army, was there to listen to Bo Hi Pak making the opening speech. The two later had a private meeting. Others present at the seminar were Industry and Energy Minister Francisco Tourelles, who was also received by the South Korean colonel; and Colonel Larroque, head of the public relations office; and Minister of Interior Alejandro Rovira.

The seminar was closed to the press. Only the army magazine, "El Soldado," covered the meeting in its 72nd issue. Mr. Pak went straight to the point: "All men and all nations should together overcome Communism... It is an international Communism. My dear friends, I want Uruguay to be a model for the rest of the world in overcoming Communism. This country was the first in Latin America to come under Communist attacks and repel them successfully: it was natural then for the Causa movement to come to Uruguay first. I believe Unificationism can produce dynamic and devoted leaders in this country who will help the world free itself from Communist imperialism."

Before he left Uruguay, Mr. Pak met President Aparicio Mendez. Julian Saffi was present at all the meetings where Moon's projects in Uruguay were raised. As a matter of fact, Bo Hi Pak did not come from New York especially to meet Uruguay's leaders. The Montevideo stopover was part of a tour which marked the start of the Causa project in Latin America.

The first stage took him to Asuncion (Paraguay) where General Alfredo Stroessner received him on March 2, 1981. Mr. Pak made no secret of the fact he was deeply impressed by the Paraguayan dictator. "I believe," he said, "he's a special man, chosen by God to run his country." The first seminar held at Asuncion's Institute of Higher Education brought together several ministers, political leaders and deans of faculties. Thanks to the intervention of Juan Manuel Fuentes, the local head of the Anti-communist League and a crony of the dictator-president, Unification Church members were soon giving courses in politics in the ruling party's offices.

The third stage, in all probability the most important after Uruguay, was Bolivia. Bo Hi Pak was in a country he knew very well. North American renegades from the Unification Church have several times declared that Moon had privately announced General Garcia Meza's coup d'etat a month in advance. It was Garcia Meza, in fact, who presided at the

dinner offered in honour of Bo Hi Pak at the La Paz Sheraton hotel, and it was his chief of staff, General Jorge Aguilera Teran, who gave the opening speech at the now customary seminar.

The Bolivian military men repaid the man who had helped them so much. Following the attempted attack on Vice-President Jaime Paz Zamora, Alfredo Mingolla, an Argentine secret service agent imprisoned in La Paz by President Suiaso in 1983, told the magazine "Der Stern" in 1984 that Thomas Ward (a member of the board of Causa International) had a direct hand in organising the coup d'etat of July 17, 1980. He said Ward had worked with the boss of the World Anticommunist League's Bolivian branch, and in particular with Klaus Barbie, who at the time was helping in the preparations with Colonel Luis Arce Gomez. In 1984, confirming information coming from Moon's defectors from New York, the Bolivian Interior Ministry revealed that Moon and Causa offered \$4 million to the 1980 putschists and that in the following months a sum of \$50,000 from the Unification Church was flown by the U.S. Air Force from Uruguay to La Paz.

As for Causa, it acknowledges in its magazine (No. 2 of September-October 1981) that several seminars on Unificationism were organised at the La Paz military academy for several hundred young officers. General Garcia Meza's downfall cut short one of Moon's ambitious projects in Latin America: a few months earlier Causa had applied for a permit to build a \$42 million property complex including a radio and television station.

The tour of Latin American dictatorships continued with a visit to Chile from June 22 to 26, 1981. Causa's first seminar in Chile took place on official premises — the Casa Colorado, the cradle of the Chilean constitution. The purpose of the seminar was summed up as follows:

"First we want to set out the conference's central theme, which consists of sharp criticism of Marxist philosophy in its original form and the reforms introduced by later thinkers. Next we want to put forward a counterproposal — Unificationism, an ideology that can vanquish Communism on philosophical grounds and resolve the problems that have favoured the emergence and growth of Communism."

As always, journalists, academics and political leaders were present. The closing banquet at the Sheraton provided Col. Bo Hi Pak with an opportunity to pay an effusive tribute to General Pinochet and Chile's economic rev-



Saffi's rather blurred, but distinguishable picture of leading Unification Church figure Bo Hi Pak meeting the Reagans.

ival. In the presence of Pinochet's personal representative, Gen. Jovino Novoa, and Gen. Claudio Lopez, Bo Hi Pak exclaimed: "We know that men like Rev. Moon and yourselves are the pillars of the struggle against the Communist international".

Several weeks later, the Unification Church's missionary in Santiago, Mrs. Nancy Hanna, revealed that Mr. Pak had a long meeting with Gen. Pinochet in 1980 before founding Causa's Chilean branch.

The Argentine military who had been in power from 1976 proved to be less keen on backing Moon's crusade. During his 1980-81 swing through the Southern Cone, Pak, who at the time was looking for bilingual journalists, made use of a stopover at Buenos Aires to explain Moon's great press project in Latin America to Rafael Videla's press secretary, General Antonio Llamas. The plan, Mr. Pak explained, was to buy up Argentina's big English-language daily, the "Buenos Aires Herald," a firm opponent of the dictatorship on human rights, and change its outlook. Gen. Videla is said to have looked on the idea with favour, but the plan did not come off as the government failed to exert sufficient pressure on the newspaper's owners. The following year when Mr. Pak was going round South America addressing a succession of Causa seminars, Gen. Videla and Admiral Masera, though both members of the World Anticommunist League, refused to see him. We will never know whether it was prompted by a wish to dissociate themselves politically from Moon, or by religious distrust on the part of Gen. Videla, a staunch Catholic.

Yet it was the most reactionary elements of the Argentine Catholic Church that backed the South Korean's action — Archbishop Antonio Plaza of La Plata offered his patronage to the Argentine Causa's first seminars, organised by La Plata Catholic University. Mrs. Hebe de Bonafini, president of the Plaza de Mayo Mothers, accused Archbishop Plaza of direct involvement in the repression. She says she went to see him in February 1977, shortly after her son disappeared, when she was not yet an activist for the "desaparecidos" and human rights. Her evidence is damning. The Archbishop received her and directed her to an office in the cathedral's basement where a policeman — a retired policeman, she was told — could give her information about her son. After a few minutes she realised the man was not there to help her but rather to obtain information from her about the company her son kept, information the police had not succeeded getting by other means. Other mothers who went to Archbishop Plaza to help some time afterwards fell into the same trap. Archbishop Plaza, who in this year of 1981 had just been received by Pope John Paul II, is one of the most committed fundamentalist prelates in the South against Liberation Theology. Issue No. 2 of Causa's Spanish language magazine has a picture on the cover, showing him being embraced by the Pope, and contains an instructive leading article on the alliances that Moon wants to conclude with the Catholic Church: "For all those who realise the threat that atheistic Communism represents for today's Christians, Pope John Paul's accession to the Church leadership constitutes an act of God... The archbishop (of La Plata) plays a very important role in the Holy Father's efforts to demonstrate that Communism and Christianity are incompatible..." — Le Monde Diplomatique.

American receptivity to Zionist propaganda

From Time Immemorial
By Joan Peters
Harper and Row, 1984.

IF EVIDENCE were needed to show how readily the American public will accept Zionist propaganda — no matter how outrageous — "From Time Immemorial" by Joan Peters should be Exhibit A. Ms. Peters' book may turn out to be the most spectacular and pernicious literary hoax of recent times. The book even outdoes The Haj, by Leon Uris, as propaganda because it claims to be history rather than fiction. It was published by the prestigious firm Harper and Row, and the mainstream media has accepted the book's "findings", complaining only about Peters' polemic tone and her lack of balance.

Ms. Peters claims to uncover new evidence that many of the Palestinians who were forced out of their homeland in 1948-49 were recent illegal immigrants to the area. She asserts that the Palestinian refugee problem is an artificial one nurtured by the PLO and the Arab states and that there is no such thing as a Palestinian except in the minds of the PLO and its supporters.

For Palestinian-Americans, many of whose families have lived in Palestine for generations, the "new research" in the Peters book is insultingly implausible.

A few writers and scholars have exposed the fraud. Norman G. Finkelstein, a doctoral candidate at Princeton University, wrote in the Sept. 5 "In These Times", that the book "was among the most spectacular frauds ever published on the Arab-Israeli conflict." Bill Farrell, writing in the scholarly "Journal of Palestine Studies", said, "Ms. Peters' claims regarding the demography of Palestine do not stand up to scrutiny." Noted MIT linguist Noam Chomsky said, "Virtually every reference is a gross falsification, one that couldn't have been done by error." He hinted that Ms. Peters was not alone in producing the book: "There is no way a single human being could have been capable of that much outright lying."

When Ms. Peters began her promotional tour in the spring and

summer of 1984, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) members responded angrily to radio stations and newspapers that interviewed her. Unfortunately, all protests were drowned out by the hoopla of Harper and Row's promotion and the uncritical reception in the press. "From Time Immemorial" is selling briskly and is in its ninth hardcover printing.

Ms. Peters is a journalist who claims to have been sympathetic towards Palestinian refugees when she covered the 1973 war. As she further explored the plight of the Palestinians, she underwent a conversion — from identifying with the refugees to condemning them and other Arabs for deceiving the world. She writes that Jews did not live in peace with the Arabs even before the creation of the state of Israel; that Jewish immigration to Palestine was hindered by massive illegal Arab immigration, which was ignored by Mandate officials; and that Jewish immigrants to Palestine did not displace an established Arab population.

In an interview with ADC Times, Mr. Finkelstein said, "Any responsible reviewer would have discovered 90 per cent of what I discovered if he had simply read the book with care." What Mr. Finkelstein discovered and revealed in his article is that the demographic study upon which Ms. Peters based her thesis of illegal Arab immigration into Palestine "is almost entirely falsified."

Miss Peters writes that the Hope Simpson Report stated that "Arab unemployment figures were inflated." Mr. Finkelstein looked at the actual document and found that it simply stated, "Arab unemployment is serious and general."

Similar falsifications of source documents abound. Alexander Cockburn reported Mr. Finkelstein's and Farrell's findings in two issues of "The Nation." In the Oct. 13 issue, Cockburn reprinted a passage from pages 158-9 of "From Time Immemorial" alongside an excerpt from "Justice for My People," a Zionist tract written by Ernst Frankenstein. The two passages are nearly identical. — ADC Times.

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Neuberger in last-ditch bid on West Berlin issue

BONN (R) — West German soccer chief Hermann Neuberger is to fly to Lisbon on Wednesday to make a last-ditch attempt to have West Germany confirmed as hosts for the 1988 European Championship finals.

Officially, Neuberger will try to persuade the European Football Union (UEFA) to include West Berlin in the programme.

But there is also a fear that the political row over the city may persuade UEFA's executive to reject West Germany's bid.

Neuberger is concerned that UEFA's organising committee last month as second choice to host the tournament behind West Germany, may be awarded the championship when the executive meets in the Portuguese capital on Friday.

Neuberger and the West German Soccer Federation (DFB) would make no official comment on the situation Monday.

But the West German government's stiff opposition to the championship taking place without West Berlin as one of the venues appears seriously to threaten their chances of staging the tournament.

In London, English Football Association secretary Ted Crocker expressed confidence that UEFA would opt to award the finals to England.

"It's fingers crossed right now, but I'm certain that UEFA cannot rubber stamp the West German nomination following the emergence of this issue," he said.

"We have submitted a further letter to them stressing particular points we would like considered, with emphasis on the support we have been given by our government."

"It is implicit in submitting a claim to stage such a tournament that you have government support."

The West German government said Sunday it had called on eight Western European countries to support the inclusion of West Berlin.

The newspaper Eelt Am Sonntag said the government planned to boycott the tournament if Berlin was excluded and would try to stop public money being used to fund it.

UEFA officials have made it clear they regard the Berlin issue as an internal West German problem and that a concession on the divided city now would make it appear as if they were yielding to political pressure.

Neuberger has consistently said there is little chance of UEFA changing its mind on West Berlin, omitted from the programme mainly because Soviet-bloc nations do not regard it as part of West Germany.

United, Liverpool to clash in F.A. Cup semifinal

LONDON (R) — Liverpool and Manchester United, the two most glamorous teams left in the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup, will clash in the semifinal on April 13.

The match at Everton's Goodison Park ground was the only clear-cut tie in Monday's draw because four clubs are contesting the two remaining places.

Luton or Millwall will play holders Everton or Ipswich at another neutral venue to be finalised after the replays.

European Champions Liverpool have taken the first division title a record 15 times but have lifted the F.A. Cup only in 1965 and 1974. They will be keen to improve that record in a season when they look likely to lose their league crown.



ICE MAN STRIKES: 'Ice man' Milton McCrory, right, delivers a right to the body of challenger Pedro Vilela during the World Boxing Council welterweight world championship title fight Saturday night. McCrory won the bout with a unanimous 12-round decision (AP wirephoto)

France succumbs to Paraguay in Davis Cup

LONDON (R) — One-time Davis Cup stalwarts France and Italy failed to survive the first round of this year's world group competition at the weekend.

France, who won the cup from 1927 to 1932 in the days of the so-called 'four musketeers', were humbled 3-2 for the second time in two years by relative newcomers Paraguay in the torrid heat of Asuncion.

Yannick Noah and Henri Leconte struggled valiantly to recall the past glory of Jean Borotra, Jacques Brugnon, Henri Cochet and Rene Lacoste, but were finally outclassed by Victor Pecci and Francisco Gonzalez.

Noah re-kindled French hopes of victory when he squared the tie at 2-2 after a marathon 3-6, 6-3, 17-15, 6-4 win over Gonzalez, but Leconte fell prey 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 to Pecci's energetic play on the steamy indoor wooden court.

Italy, winners in 1976 and beaten finalists five times in the last 25 years, failed to scale the heights once reached by their non-playing captain Adriano Panatta, bowing out 3-2 to India in Calcutta.

Vijay Amritraj sent the home side through to the second round against Chile or Sweden by beating Francesco Chancellotti 5-7, 6-4, 6-3, 8-6 in the first reverse singles.

Paraguay will meet Australia in the next round, scheduled for August 2-4, but India's opponents are still undecided after the International Tennis Federation agreed to holders Sweden's request to postpone their first-round contest.

The tie against Chile, due to have been played in Santiago which was rocked by an earthquake a week ago, will now take place at the same venue either this month or next.

Australia, who with the United States have dominated Davis Cup history, had a surprisingly easy run against Yugoslavia in split.

Pat Cash, hero of the Australians' 1983 final triumph over Sweden in Melbourne, again hit form on cue to rout Marco Stosija 6-2, 6-0, 6-2 to give the visitors a decisive lead.

The United States, beaten finalists last year, and Czechoslovakia, winners in 1980, scored predictably easy wins over Japan and the Soviet Union respectively, while West Germany, who fought off relegation in 1984, beat Spain 3-2.

Glasgow Rangers in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Scottish football club Glasgow Rangers arrived in Amman Monday to play against the national Kuwaiti soccer team who are in Jordan training in preparation for their World Soccer Cup bid. The match will be held Tuesday at the Sports City.

The Scottish team, third in the Premier Division club who were beaten 4-1 by the national Iraqi team Sunday in Baghdad are the second foreign team to visit Jordan during the last week to play against Kuwait.

Tottenham Hotspur, currently second in English Division One defeated Kuwait last Friday 1-0. Kuwait, '82 finalists start their World Cup campaign with a match against Syria on March 22 in Damascus in an Asian Group 2 B qualifying round. The other member of the group is North Yemen.

Qatar national soccer team are due to arrive here Thursday for their first World Cup qualification match against Jordan, the match being played on Friday. Jordan, Qatar, Lebanon and Iraq make up Asian Group 1 A.

Injury-time winner saves Uruguay in World Cup qualifier

MONTEVIDEO (R) — Twice World Cup winners Uruguay made an inauspicious start to their 1986 campaign, an injury-time goal earning them a 2-1 win over Ecuador in their opening South American group two soccer tie Sunday night.

The 1930 and 1950 World Champions were flattered by the scoreline and Ecuador, held to a 1-1 home draw by Chile earlier this month, appeared to have earned a point when Uruguayan striker Ramos struck with almost the last kick of the game.

Uruguay dominated the first

half but could find no way through the well-drilled Ecuador defence until the 34th minute when Aguilera scored a fine opportunist goal.

But Ecuador took command after the interval and deservedly equalised 10 minutes after the restart when Cuvi headed home a cross from Hurtado.

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STRIKE ENDS (British mine strike ends) CAMBRIDGE HIGH-TECH LAUREAT FABIUS (French premier brings fresh ideas to Socialists cause) FRANCESCO PAZIENZA (one of Italy's most wanted fugitives arrested in N.Y.) CARAMANLIS EXIT (Greek P.M. will not support Caramanlis)

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Moscow agrees to open arms talks as planned

GENEVA (R) — The Soviet Union signalled continuity in foreign policy Monday by agreeing swiftly to open arms talks with the United States Tuesday as planned despite the death of President Konstantin Chernenko.

Moscow's agreement on a "business as usual" approach was announced in Geneva only half an hour after Mr. Chernenko's death was officially confirmed by the Kremlin leadership.

U.S. delegation spokesman Joseph Lehman said a senior Soviet diplomat at a scheduled preparatory meeting Monday morning agreed that the first superpower arms negotiations in 15 months should go ahead "as planned".

American diplomats had expected that the Soviet delegation, which arrived here Sunday a few hours before Mr. Chernenko died, would ask for a delay until after his funeral.

Western officials said the decision to open the talks on schedule, obviously cleared with Moscow, was encouraging. It showed the Soviet government wanted to demonstrate a continuing line in foreign policy despite the leadership change.

It also appeared to underline the urgency which the Soviet Union attached to the talks on space arms, long-range nuclear weapons, and European-based missiles, the officials said.

Soviet delegation Chief Viktor Karpov promised a businesslike

and constructive approach when he arrived with a group of about 100 aides and urged that far-reaching decisions should be taken in the negotiations.

The go-ahead was announced as U.S. chief negotiator Max Kampelman was in Brussels briefing NATO allies on U.S. tactics.

Western officials said there should be no problems for the Soviet delegation in the early stages of the talks because basic Kremlin positions had been settled well in advance and were reconfirmed by the ruling politburo only last week.

The negotiators would have to seek fresh instructions when the United States introduced new proposals, but diplomats close to the U.S. delegation said this might not be for some time.

The first meeting Tuesday will be a get-acquainted session between Mr. Kampelman and Mr. Karpov at the Soviet mission to the United Nations in Geneva.

They will be flanked by their negotiators in sub-groups dealing with the three types of weapons. The decision to continue normally was taken at a four-hour meeting between the executive secretaries of the two delegations.

Warren Zimmerman and Vladimir Alexandrov, at the Geneva offices of the U.S. Arms Control Agency.

The talks are acknowledged by both sides as a fresh start following a Soviet walkout from separate negotiations on strategic and medium-range missiles in Geneva in 1983.

The key issue this time will be Moscow's strenuous attempt to halt President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative or Star Wars programme which is intended eventually to destroy offensive missiles before they can reach their targets.

U.S. officials say agreement would be easier on strategic weapons, but that discussions on European-based missiles are also likely to be difficult, with a real risk that Moscow will hold up work in other areas until the space issue is settled.

American delegates have refused to say whether they are carrying specific new proposals in one or all of the three negotiating areas. But they are expected gradually to unveil new ideas on the whole range of arms control policy.

The three senior U.S. Geneva negotiators, led by Mr. Kampelman, met the NATO council of ambassadors under Secretary-General Lord Carrington to brief them on U.S. strategy, including controversial space defence proposals.

Vietnamese capture last major Kampuchean base

BANGKOK (R) — Kampuchean guerrillas were driven out of their last major base near the Thai border Monday by Vietnamese troops who launched heavy ground and artillery assaults. Thai military officers said.

But the officers and diplomats said the setback was not a death blow to the cause of the guerrillas and that they could regain the upper hand by taking the fight deeper into the interior of Kampuchea.

A Thai army spokesman said that during the fighting for the base at Green Hill, Thai planes bombed and strafed 1,200 Vietnamese troops who had been inside Thailand trying to seize Green Hill, also known as Tatum, from the rear.

Thai officers said guerrillas of the Sihanouk National Army (ANS) abandoned their Kampuchean headquarters after holding out for a week against artillery barrages and Vietnamese infantry attacks.

An authoritative Thai military source said Prince Norodom Sihanouk gave the retreat order Monday morning to spare possible slaughter or capture of the camp's estimated 3,000 defenders.

The capture of Green Hill, the mountain stronghold of Prince Sihanouk, climaxed a dry-season offensive launched by Vietnamese troops in mid-November.

It marked the first time since they invaded Kampuchea six years ago that Hanoi's forces managed to overrun all the major border bases of the anti-Vietnamese Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK).

The events at Green Hill coincided with the arrival in Bangkok

Monday of Chinese President Li Xianmin for a five-day visit seen by Thai officials as a show of support for Thailand in its conflict with Vietnam.

Western diplomats said the Vietnamese assault against the only remaining guerrilla base on the Thai-Kampuchean border was aimed at embarrassing the Chinese president.

By most official accounts, the guerrillas' strength is still intact and there should be no major problems in resupplying them in the interior of Kampuchea.

The consensus of such accounts is that even if Vietnamese troops maintain a year-round presence on the Thai-Kampuchean border they will be unable to seal the 700-kilometre long frontier.

Thai officers said that to mount the earlier than usual dry-season offensive the Vietnamese and the Phnom Penh government had to deplete their manpower in the interior. As a result their defence positions were now more vulnerable to guerrilla attacks, the officers said.

Meanwhile the New China News Agency (NCNA) said Monday Chinese frontier troops have repulsed more than 20 Vietnamese attacks into Yunnan province in the past three days despite massive artillery barrages.

China and Vietnam have accused each other this month of stepping up violence along their border, killing many people.

Few concrete details have emerged, but diplomats in Peking say they believe Chinese forces hold several strategic hills along the border previously held by Vietnam.

Pakistani opposition ridicules amended constitution

ISLAMABAD (R) — Leading Pakistani opposition politicians have ridiculed a partial revival of the country's suspended constitution by military ruler Gen. Muhammad Zia ul-Haq.

Gen. Zia announced the revival Sunday, but included amendments announced earlier this month which give him sweeping presidential powers. He also said martial law and a ban on political parties would continue for the time being.

"This is another fraud to hoodwink the people of Pakistan," National Democratic Party leader Abdul Wali Khan said.

He said it would be a joke that martial law should continue parallel to a parliament, which is due to open on March 23.

"There can be no rule of law without fundamental rights and also no constitution in the presence of martial law," he said.

The opposition said Gen. Zia's amendments demolished the Western-type parliamentary form of government the suspended 1973 constitution envisioned.

"It is a device to perpetuate martial law," Tehrik-i-Insaf Party leader Asghar Khan told reporters.

He said Gen. Zia had no right to distort the constitution. "The so-called restoration is designed to regularise illegal and extra-constitutional measures of the past eight years," he said.

The North-West Frontier province president of the opposition Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Altaf Ahmad Sherpao, said in the provincial capital Peshawar that Gen. Zia had introduced a brand new constitution to meet his own wishes and requirements.

He said the partial revival of the constitution was meaningless when citizens were still denied fundamental rights.

Gen. Zia suspended the constitution on seizing power in a coup in 1977 that toppled Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was later hanged.

Salvadoran army starts anti-rebel sweep

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Thousands of government troops moved against leftist guerrilla strongholds in northern El Salvador as part of a big operation said by the rebels to involve also the armed forces of neighbouring Honduras.

Military sources in the capital said some 4,000 troops, backed by artillery units and ground-assault jets, pushed into mountainous northern reaches of Chalatenango province to seek out and destroy rebel concentrations in the area before national legislative elections due late this month.

Guerrilla Radio Farabundo Martí said the operation would be coordinated with Honduran troops on both sides of the two countries' shared border.

"The decision of the Honduran

Chernenko's leadership marked by caution

MOSCOW (R) — Konstantin Chernenko's brief leadership of the Soviet Union was dogged by an image of illness and frailty from the day he became the oldest man to take power in the Kremlin.

Mr. Chernenko, 73 at his death, was seen as a stopgap leader, chosen by the conservative "old guard" of the ruling politburo who were unwilling to transfer power to a younger man.

As soon as he took office on Feb. 13, 1984, diplomats and ordinary Soviets began speculating on his likely successor. Western doctors said he suffered from a respiratory ailment.

For many, Mr. Chernenko represented a step back from the short but vigorous leadership of Yuri Andropov to the cautious style of Leonid Brezhnev, the man whom he served as office manager for two decades.

Mr. Chernenko's 13-month stewardship was marked by a lack of firm direction at home and wavering in foreign policy that was followed by a shift in the Kremlin's approach to Washington.

After rejecting overtures from President Reagan and leading a boycott of the Los Angeles Olympics, Moscow agreed last September to reopen a dialogue with the United States.

The two superpowers agreed in January to full-scale negotiations on nuclear arms, which were scheduled to open Tuesday in Geneva.

Diplomats detected Mr. Chernenko's hand in the moves to resume the East-West dialogue, but they said the shift was probably the result of a reassessment promoted by Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and other politburo figures.

A consensus among the politburo old guard and younger figures led by Mikhail Gorbachev — thought likely to succeed Mr. Chernenko — was seen by diplomats as the main factor behind domestic policies.

The Kremlin has maintained a programme of limited economic reform launched by Mr. Andropov and his anti-graft campaign.

The economy continued to show modest improvement over the stagnation of the late 1970s and the corruption drive was punctuated with a few spectacular cases, such as the execution last July of the manager of Moscow's leading food store.

But analysts said Mr. Chernenko's leadership had slowed reforms and softened the drive to weed out senior officials in the ministry and party, where

Mr. Chernenko had spent his entire career.

"A lot of people in the party breathed a sigh of relief when Mr. Chernenko took over," one diplomat said.

Ordinary people will remember his long speeches, delivered in a breathless and faltering style, praising orthodox ideology and condemning innovation in literature and the arts.

Diplomats said they believed that throughout his rule Mr. Chernenko was happy to be guided both by his advisers and by the majority view in the politburo on international affairs.

A stocky, white-haired man from Krasnoyarsk in Siberia, Mr. Chernenko became closely associated with Mr. Brezhnev when both were serving in the party apparatus in Moldavia in 1950. As Brezhnev moved up the party ladder he took Mr. Chernenko with him.

After performing the duties of office manager for 20 years he was elevated to the politburo in the 1970s and Mr. Brezhnev began grooming his protégé for the succession.

These plans were thwarted by the rise of the former KGB chief Andropov, who took power on Mr. Brezhnev's death in November 1982. He launched a vigorous programme to purge the party of old and incompetent officials and also introduced economic reforms.

Mr. Chernenko's career appeared to be in eclipse, but Mr. Andropov's physical decline reversed his fortunes.

Most Western analysts believe he became the rallying point for conservative party officials alarmed by Mr. Andropov's course and say it was this support which ensured him the succession when the then president died in February last year.

Once in power Mr. Chernenko voiced backing for his predecessor's economic reforms and crackdown on corruption. But Western diplomats say that in practice he slowed both.

Closer links with Arabs

The only area where the Soviet Union showed major activity under Mr. Chernenko was the Middle East, where it tried to cultivate closer links with Arab states of all political persuasions.

The one area where Mr. Chernenko made vigorous attempts to impose his own personal stamp was culture. He fiercely hit out at Western influences in the arts and demanded a return to the values of 1930s-style "Socialist realism".

FDP, Liberals victorious in German state polls

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) have been ousted from power in state elections in the Saarland by a radical left-winger committed to expelling U.S. nuclear forces from West Germany.

But the CDU and their Bonn coalition partners, the Free Democrats (FDP) retained office in a simultaneous poll in West Berlin Sunday and the Liberal FDP increased its share of the vote in both states against earlier expectations.

The greatest triumph in the polls went to the Saarland's Social Democrats (SPD), headed by 41-year-old Oskar Lafontaine, who secured an overall majority in the local assembly to form the Roman Catholic state's first-ever SPD administration.

Mr. Lafontaine, a fiery orator who enjoys a huge following among young SPD members, has called for the expulsion of U.S. nuclear forces from the country and West Germany's withdrawal from NATO's military structure.

Following his victory, SPD Chairman Willy Brandt said on television he was convinced Mr. Lafontaine's influence within the party as a whole would now increase.

Political commentators said the outcome could mark out Mr. Diepgen, 43, who has achieved considerable popularity in West Berlin after only a year in office, as one of the rising stars of the Christian Democratic Movement.

Anti-nuclear groups, which had scored stunning successes in recent West German elections, achieved only a mixed result in Sunday's ballots.

He said he considered the Bonn coalition had been consolidated by the FDP's strong showing, which made clear the party had emerged from two years of inner turmoil and electoral defeats.

In West Berlin, once an SPD bastion, Mayor Eberhard Diepgen's centre-right alliance increased its overall majority and inflicted a resounding defeat on the SPD, who registered their worst result in the city since World War II.

Mr. Diepgen said he would not be surprised if the FDP's success in the polls was a sign of a general swing to the right in local elections.

It is necessary that we communicate and coordinate our forces for security reasons," Gen. Blandon said.

He also said El Salvador wanted military access to a range of mountains in Chalatenango known as the Bolsones which both countries claim as their own and which the government here says is used by the guerrillas as a refuge.

According to military spokesmen here, Col. Sigifredo Ochua Perez, the commander of all forces in Chalatenango province, has met Honduran military officials in the Honduran town of Nuevo Ocopeque to discuss joint military operations.



Konstantin Chernenko

ism", which required the arts to serve as an adjunct of party propaganda.

Appalled by what they saw as a stifling atmosphere in Moscow, two prominent cultural figures, theatre director Yuri Lyubimov and film director Andrei Tarkovsky, decided to stay and work in the West.

The Kremlin leader frequently criticised the attitudes of Soviet teenagers, condemning their fondness for Western fashions and accusing them of laziness and ingratitude. The effect among Moscow youngsters appears to have been to intensify feelings of cynicism and indifference towards the leadership.

Born on September 24, 1911, into a peasant family in a village near Krasnoyarsk, Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko left school at the age of 12 after only rudimentary education.

He joined the Communist Party in 1931 while serving in a border guard detachment near the Chinese frontier and battling Muslim guerrillas opposed to Communist rule.

He returned to his native region to pursue a career as a party propagandist and after a two-year course at a party school in Moscow was sent to Moldavia in 1948.

It was there that he cemented his relationship with Mr. Brezhnev and overcame a major barrier to his further promotion, a lack of any qualifications, by attending courses at a teacher training college in Kishinev.

Mr. Brezhnev brought him to Moscow in 1956 and when he became head of state in 1960, appointed Mr. Chernenko as head of his secretariat.

Four years later, when Mr. Brezhnev became party leader, he put Mr. Chernenko in charge of the party's general department, an administrative post which gave him access to all personal files and allowed him

to organise day-to-day Kremlin business.

Mr. Chernenko was made a candidate member of the politburo in 1977, promoted to full membership a year later and was almost always at the leader's side in subsequent public appearances.

Outmanoeuvred by Mr. Andropov in 1982, Mr. Chernenko appeared to be in decline for several months but began to bounce back as the new Kremlin chief ideologist.

Upon Mr. Andropov's death early last year he was named new general secretary and made state president two months later.

Most Kremlin-watchers believe Mr. Chernenko's ultimate success in securing the leadership was based more on his previous association with Mr. Brezhnev than his own merits.

"Chernenko did not get to the top through outstanding ability. For people frightened by the Andropov regime he was the closest thing to another Brezhnev," one diplomat said.

Some Westerners who have dealt with Mr. Chernenko have voiced similarly unflattering views. Malcolm Toon, a former U.S. ambassador to Moscow, said: "The only impression I formed of him was that he was a dullard."

His leadership style was in many ways modelled on Mr. Brezhnev, in sharp contrast with the modest and almost ascetic Andropov.

Despite his almost daily appearances on television and signs of a growing personality cult, speculation about Mr. Chernenko's health and likely tenure in office persisted.

When he was absent from public view for almost two months in the middle of last year some Soviet officials began spreading rumours that he was about to step down.

The state media almost dropped references to the leader during his absence, seen by Western analysts as a sign that he wielded little real authority in the upper echelons of the party apparatus.

According to Western experts the Kremlin chief suffered from emphysema, a lung ailment which makes breathing difficult and imposes strains on the heart.

Amid continuing doubts about Mr. Chernenko's ability to hold on to power for long, most Western analysts turned their attention to the likely contenders for his succession.

They saw a rivalry between politburo members Mikhail Gorbachev, and Grigory Romanov, 62, both allies of Mr. Andropov.

French electorate swings to right in local election

PARIS (AP) — The French electorate swung to the right in local elections, issuing a warning to Socialist President Francois Mitterrand and giving new credibility to the extreme right national Front Party.

In the first round of elections widely viewed as a tune-up for next spring's voting for a new National Assembly, the combined total of rightist parties was 58.4 per cent, according to the latest figures available early Monday.

The left, which came to power nationally in May and June 1981, had 41.1 per cent.

The voters were choosing representatives for General Councils in France's 95 metropolitan and four overseas departments, or counties. Half of the seats on the

General Councils are filled every three years for six-year terms.

Leaders of the Neo-Gaullist Rally for the Republic (RPR) and the centrist Union for French Democracy (UDF) claimed that French voters had rejected Socialism and that the opposition would oust the left from the National Assembly next March.

The RPR and UDF also were delighted that, along with minor rightist parties, they won half of the votes and would not need the 8.4 per cent won by Jean-Marie Le Pen's National Front, which in the past year has risen from obscurity to be a force in French politics.

The RPR and UDF vote total was 33.5 per cent. Diverse rightist candidates won 16.5 per cent.

Lange orders bugging check after ship-ban leak

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange Monday said he ordered his office checked for listening devices in January after details of a conversation with the U.S. ambassador here were leaked to a news organisation "in a matter of minutes".

The search revealed nothing but Mr. Lange said the leak stopped New Zealand and the United States from reaching any compromise agreement on Wellington's refusal to permit visits by nuclear-capable warships.

The ban has caused a crisis in relations between the two countries and in the ANZUS defence pact which links New Zealand and the United States with Australia.

Mr. Lange said the leak detailed his request to the United States to change the type of warship for which port-call approval had been requested to a class of ship incapable of carrying nuclear weapons.

Such a change would have complied both with New Zealand's anti-nuclear policy and with Washington's long-held stance of ref-

using to confirm or deny the carriage of nuclear weapons.

Asked if the leak had prevented the mutually face-saving swap from being successfully negotiated, Mr. Lange replied: "Oh yes, obviously we would have been well on course for that."

The New Zealand leader said he was confident his own officials had not revealed the discussions with U.S. Ambassador Monroe Browne.

Asked who might have been responsible for the leak, he said: "I've no idea ... All I am saying is that (the request was made public) and it effectively torpedoed the chance of having a visit from an obviously conventionally-armed and powered warship."

Mr. Lange said the leak was not in New Zealand's interests but he refused to speculate on who could have benefited from it.

While it was publicly known at the time of the Jan. 29 meeting that Washington had asked New Zealand to accept a warship visit, the exact type of vessel under consideration had not then been disclosed.



Capri plans to cover main square

CAPRI, Italy (AP) — The sparkling island off the coast of Naples, is planning to cover its most popular square with a movable roof to keep out winter winds, and rain. "This way, Capri will have the possibility to schedule in advance cultural spectacles, concerts and shows even during bad weather," Urban Planning Commissioner Mario Coppola said. Officials say they hope to have either a tent-like roof or a dome over the 400-square metre square, known as the "Piazzetta," the island's main gathering place. They said the Piazzetta would be covered from September to March, adding the roof would be removed during the high season for tourists to this mountainous island. Capri officials announced an architectural competition aimed at designers around the world, with a first prize of 5 million lire (\$2,500). The island is a popular spot for tourists from around the world.

H. Kong's red light zone under debate

HONG KONG (R) — The government is seeking public opinion on setting up special sex districts to combat the problem of prostitution in crowded residential areas of Hong Kong, an official said Monday. Bowen Leung said hundreds of prostitutes had found a loop-hole in the law which allowed them to operate "one girl brothels" in apartment blocks and this had led to angry complaints from residents. The government had proposed "red light zones" to remove the problem and public opinion was being tested, he said. Mr. Leung said residents complained that their wives and daughters were being harassed by patrons of the brothels who also burnt fake money on the stairs to appease their gods while they had illicit sex. The residents objected to neon signs at brothel windows which described in detail services offered, he said. Reaction to the proposal has been mixed. Some people worried that their neighbourhood would be chosen as a sex zone while others said it would keep vice away from decent people. Mr. Leung added. Lawyers said that under existing law it is difficult to convict prostitutes working alone.

Swiss reject extra week of paid annual holiday

GENEVA (R) — The Swiss have rejected a one-week increase in paid annual holiday, according to provisional results of a national referendum. The referendum proposed that all workers over 40 be guaranteed a minimum of five weeks of annual paid holiday instead of the present four weeks. Officials said 14 cantons had rejected the proposal, which needs a majority of the total popular vote and a majority vote in over half of the country's 24 cantons to pass.

Paper shortage hits Polish newspapers

WARSAW (R) — Polish newspapers including national dailies are being cut in size because of a worsening paper shortage caused by the country's economic crisis and shortage of hard currency. Zycie Warszawy, the biggest-selling daily, was reduced by two pages from Friday and other newspapers will be affected from the middle of the month, the Government Planning Commission said. Weekly publications will be reduced by as much as 30 per cent as a result of a fall by half in imports and declining output from Polish paper mills using obsolete machinery.

Picasso painting stolen from gallery

CHICAGO, Illinois (AP) — A Picasso painting worth an estimated \$38,000 was stolen from a privately owned art gallery on Chicago's Magnificent Mile, police said. The painting, titled Nu Couché Et Joueur De Flute (Reclining Nude And Flutist), was taken from a viewing room in the Richard Gray Gallery, said Police Lt. Thomas McGady. Paul Gray, 30, brother of gallery owner Richard Gray, said he discovered the theft as he was closing up shop at 5 p.m. and noticed an empty frame where the Picasso had been. McGady said, "Someone entered the gallery, cut the picture from the frame and left with it." McGady said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

THE TALE OF THE ACE OF DIAMONDS

DEAR READERS: We have had many requests over the years for these hands we consider to be our favorites. That makes quite a list, for the time being, therefore, we are devoting the Sunday column to a series of famous hands. At the end of the series we will go back to our weekly question and answer column.

South South vulnerable South deals.

| | | |
|-------|--|-------|
| NORTH | | EAST |
| AK84 | | 109 |
| 42 | | 1043 |
| QJ32 | | AKQ |
| WEST | | EAST |
| QJ52 | | 109 |
| QJ973 | | 1045 |
| K | | 10487 |
| 1054 | | QJ32 |
| | | AK6 |
| | | AJ85 |
| | | 986 |

The bidding: South West North East
1 Pass 2 Pass
3 Pass 4 Pass
1 Pass 4NT Pass
2 Pass 3NT Pass
6 Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead, Queen of Spades.

He bid like any other Ace of Diamonds, except for one slight oddity — a small black skullcap was perched atop his head. "I am an Orthodox Jew," he explained.

"Bridge is really a simple game," he pontificated. "It's the players

who make it complicated. All these weird conventions and strange plays. Why, if they simply learn to take the tricks, they would be far better off."

"Only the other day I played in a six diamond contract on this hand. It was in a rubber bridge game. All my winnings went to a very poor family of which I happen to be the head."

"Now, you must agree that six diamonds is an excellent contract. If I were addicted to tennis, I would have been defeated. I would have won the opening lead, crossed to dummy and taken the trump finesse. As the cards lie, that would have meant the loss of a second trump trick, for damn sure."

"However, it is against my religion to go down in makable contracts. Besides, my Rabbi has a rule: When the king is singleton, play the ace." It never there was a time to apply the rule, this was it.

"I won the opening lead in hand and immediately launched myself into the fray. When the king dropped, it was a simple matter to draw two more rounds of trump and then roll my heart over on the board."

My denigrators, aware me of being lucky, some were impatient enough to suggest I must have perked, but that's not really fair. It trumps were 32, my line of play would always succeed. Because of the missing trump spots, if trumps were 11, all lines were due to fail except in the event that his majesty the king was unprotected. I was simply playing the odds."

Jeff in 150